



Dance in the
Wampire Bund

NOZOMU TAMAKI

VOLUME 12

Tamaki Nozomu Presents Dance In The Vampire Bund 12

DANCE IN THE VAMPIRE BUND 12

NOZOMU TAMAKI

松明の如く汝の身より炎の爆ぜるとき
汝は知らず
その身を焦がしつつ自由の身とならんことを
汝の持てる全ては消滅する運命とならんことを

ただ灰と、地の底へと汝を導く
混迷だけが残されんことを

永遠の勝利の暁に
燃え残るの灰の奥底深く
燦然と輝ける
ダイヤモンドの残らんことを！

From you, as from burning chips of resin,
Fiery fragments circle far and near:
Ablaze, you don't know if you are to be free,
Or if all that is yours will disappear.

Will only ashes and confusion remain,
Leading into the abyss?—or will there be
In the depths of the ash a star-like diamond,
The dawning of eternal victory!

Cyprian kamil Norwid, Prolog- Tragedia fantastyczna

Dance In The Vampire Bund 12

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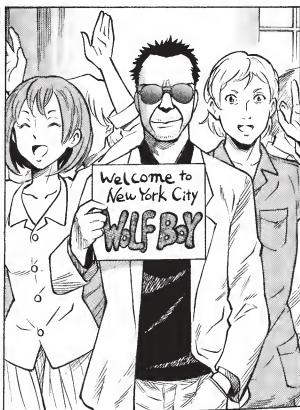
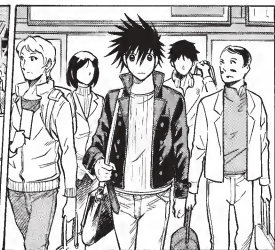
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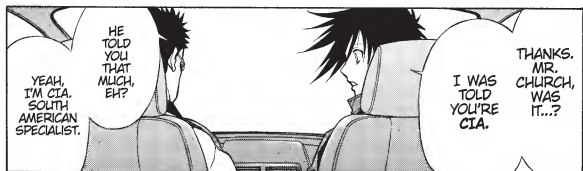
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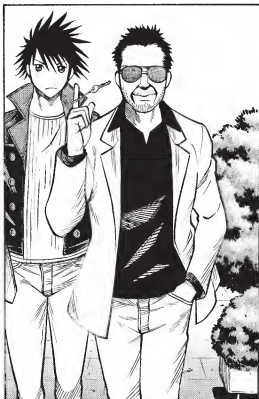
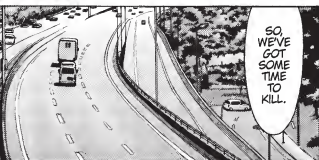
Chapter 65: New York, New York

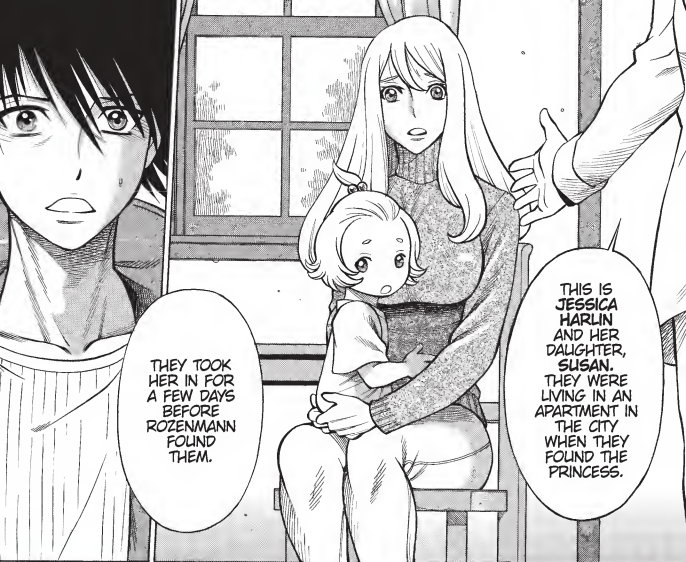






EASY THERE, KID. YOU CAN'T RUSH INTO THESE THINGS.





THEY TOOK
HER IN FOR
A FEW DAYS
BEFORE
ROZENMANN
FOUND THEM.

THIS IS
JESSICA
HARLIN
AND HER
DAUGHTER,
SUSAN.
THEY WERE
LIVING IN AN
APARTMENT IN
THE CITY
WHEN THEY
FOUND THE
PRINCESS.



I'VE
COME
TO
RESCUE
HER.

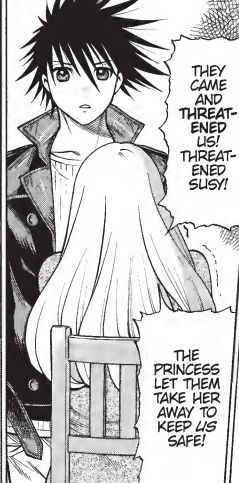
YES.
I
AM.



ARE
YOU
ONE
OF THE
PRINCESS'...
UH,
SERVANTS
?



ARE
YOU,
LIM...



THEY CAME
AND
THREAT-
ENED
US! THREAT-
ENED
SUSY!

THE
PRINCESS
LET THEM
TAKE HER
AWAY TO
KEEP US
SAFE!



I'M
SORRY!!

I'M SO
SORRY!

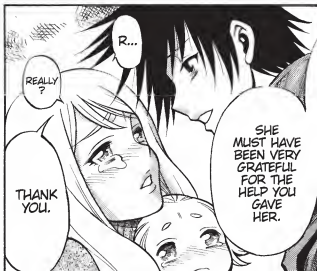
IT'S
ALL MY
FAULT!
MY
FAULT
THAT
THE BAD
GUYS
CAUGHT
HER!!



SMILE
HUH?



YEAH...
THAT'S
DEFINITELY
THE REAL
HIME-SAN.

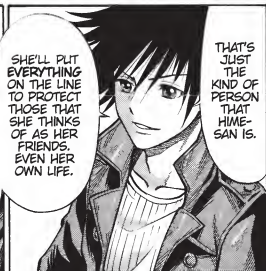


R...

REALLY?

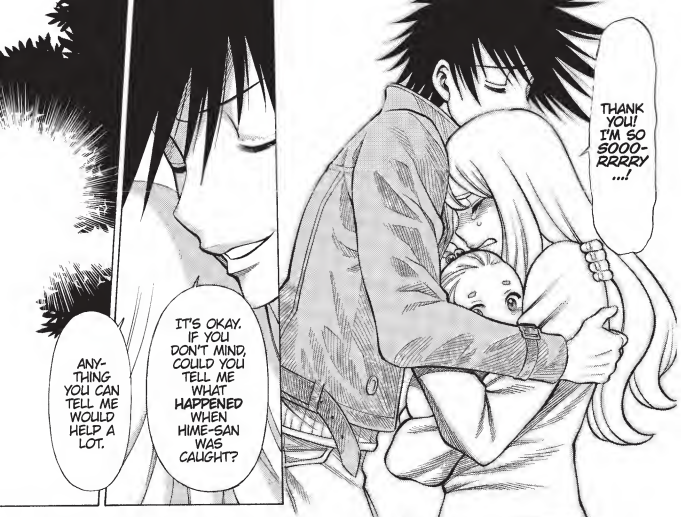
THANK
YOU.

SHE
MUST HAVE
BEEN VERY
GRATEFUL
FOR THE
HELP YOU
GAVE
HER.



SHE'LL PUT
EVERYTHING
ON THE LINE
TO PROTECT
THOSE THAT
SHE THINKS
OF AS HER
FRIENDS,
EVEN HER
OWN LIFE.

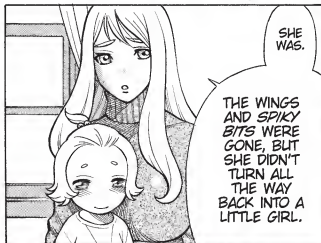
THAT'S
JUST
THE
KIND OF
PERSON
THAT
HIME-SAN
IS.



ANY-
THING
YOU CAN
TELL ME
WOULD
HELP A
LOT.

IT'S OKAY.
IF YOU
DON'T MIND,
COULD YOU
TELL ME
WHAT
HAPPENED
WHEN
HIME-SAN
WAS
CAUGHT?

THANK
YOU!!
I'M SO
SOOO-
RRRRY
...!

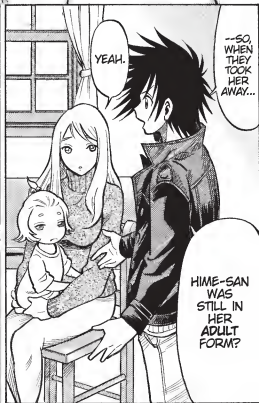


SHE
WAS.

THE WINGS
AND SPIKY
BITS WERE
GONE, BUT
SHE DIDN'T
TURN ALL
THE WAY
BACK INTO A
LITTLE GIRL.



SOME-
THING
ODD
ABOUT
THAT,
KID?



YEAH.

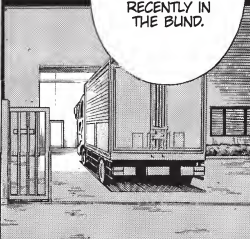
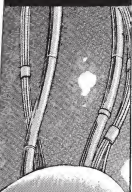
--SO,
WHEN
THEY
TOOK
HER
AWAY...

HIME-SAN
WAS
STILL IN
HER
ADULT
FORM?



IT
COULD
FREEZE
HER
IN HER
ADULT
TRUE
FORM.

IF THAT
DRUG
WAS
GIVEN TO
HIME-SAN...



A SECRET
LABORATORY
WAS
UNCOVERED
RECENTLY IN
THE BLIND.



D
A
M
N
!

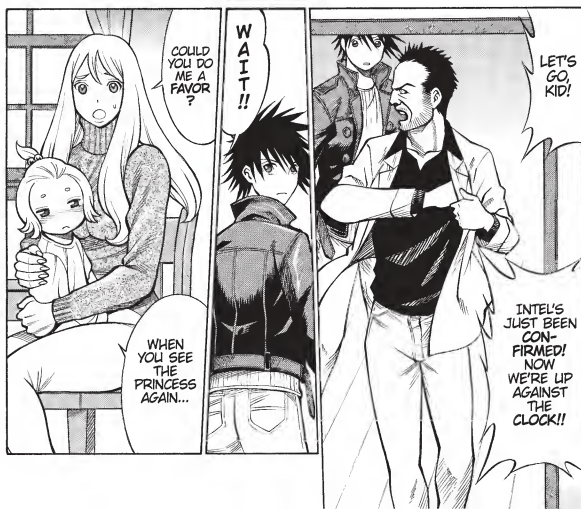
THIS
JUST
KEEPS
GETTING
WORSE
AND
WORSE!

THE BLIND'S
SCIENTISTS
BELIEVE THAT
THEY WERE
CREATING
A DRUG
INTENDED TO
MANIPULATE
A VAMPIRE'S
TRUE FORM.



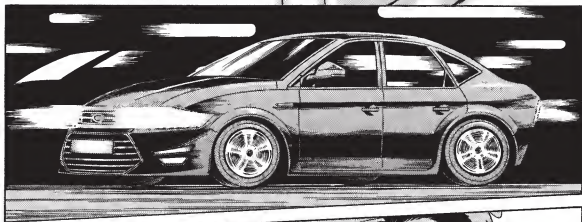
WE
THINK IT
WAS RUN
BY PEOPLE
LOYAL TO
ONE OF
THE OTHER
CLANS.

INSIDE,
THERE WAS A
LOT OF MEDICAL
EQUIPMENT AND THE
BODY OF ONE OF
IVANOVIC'S "NEW"
VAMPIRE HYBRIDS.
THE DATA RECOVERED
FROM THE PLACE
INDICATES THAT THEY
WERE EXPERIMENTING
WITH THE HYBRID'S
GENETIC MATERIAL.





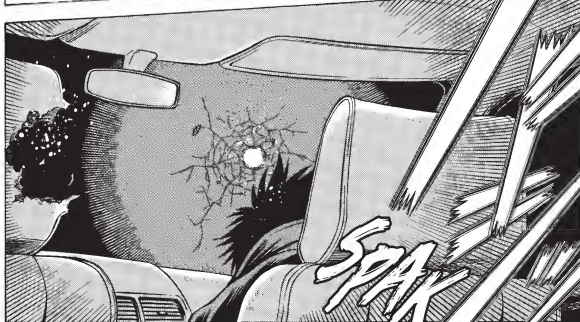
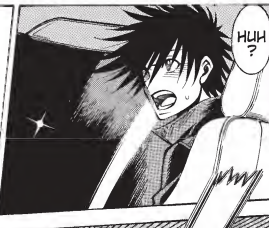
TELL
HER TO
COME
AND
VISIT US
SOMETIME,
OKAY?

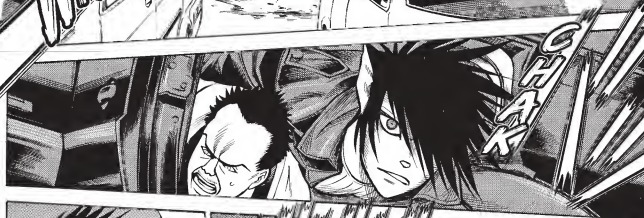
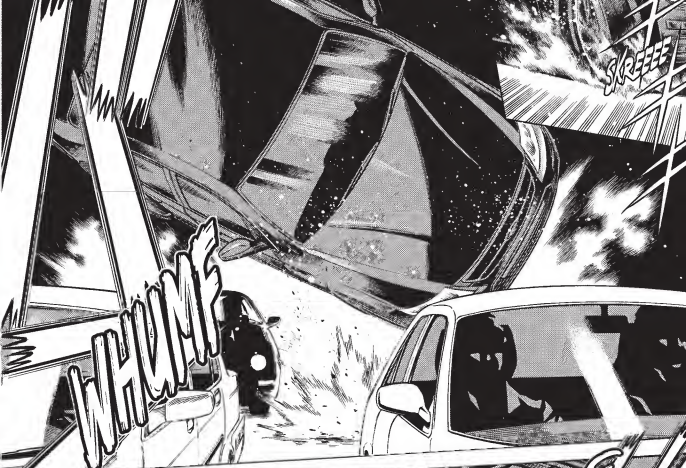


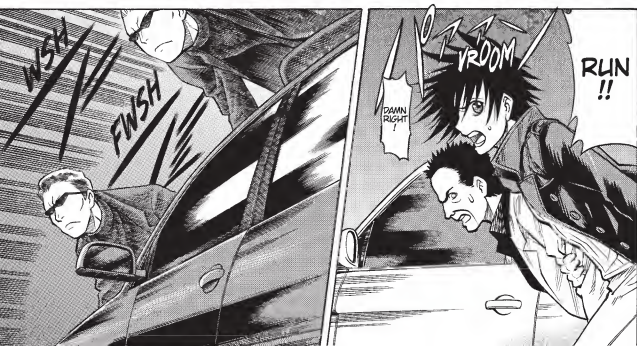
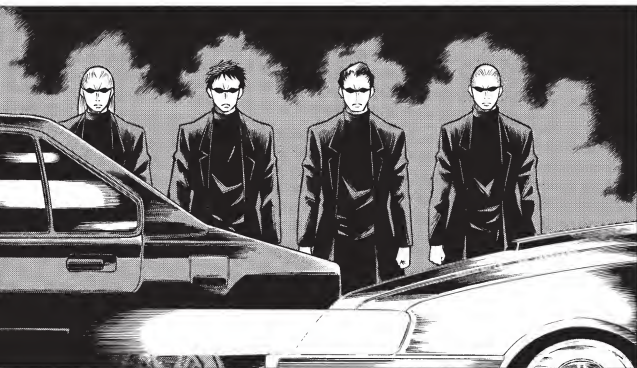
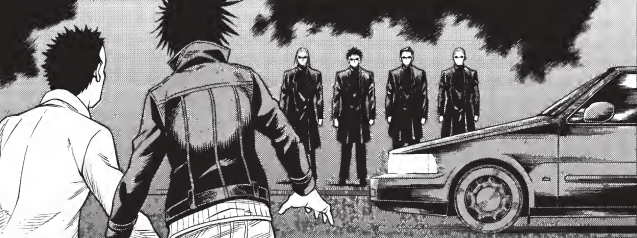
THEY'LL
TAKE YOU
STRAIGHT
TO LA
GUARDIA.
A CIA
PLANE WILL
MEET YOU
THERE!

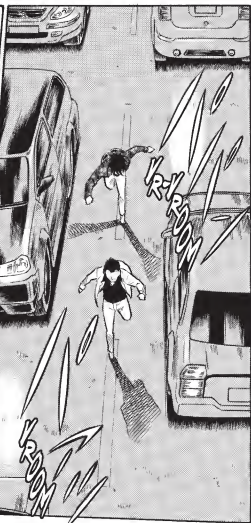


I'VE
CALLED
IN A
CHOPPER
TO PICK
YOU UP
FROM THE
HOSPITAL'S
ROOFTOP.

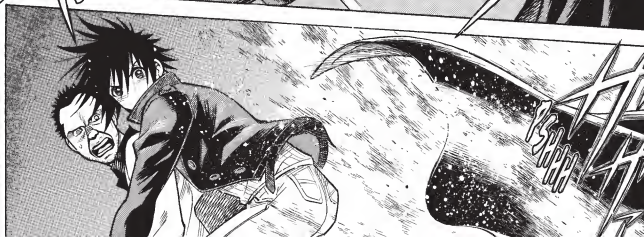




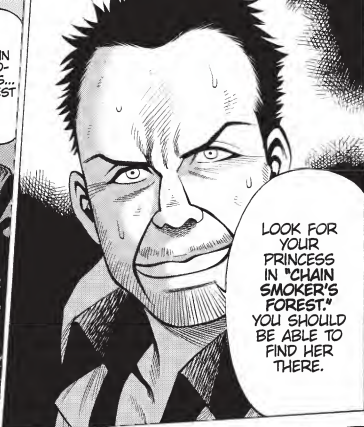


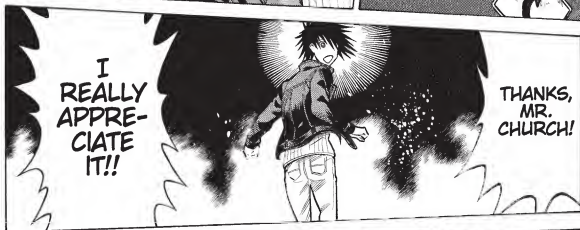


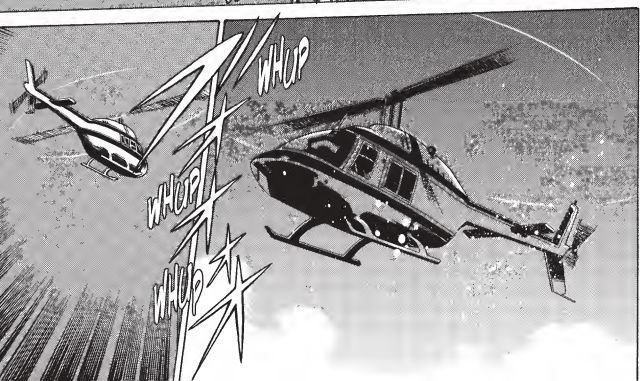
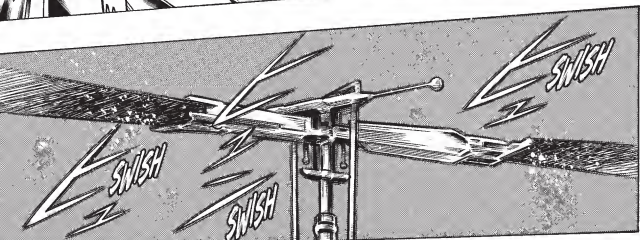














WHAT
THE
--?!

NO...

NO
WAY...

YOU'VE
GOTTA
BE
KIDDING
ME...



AH...

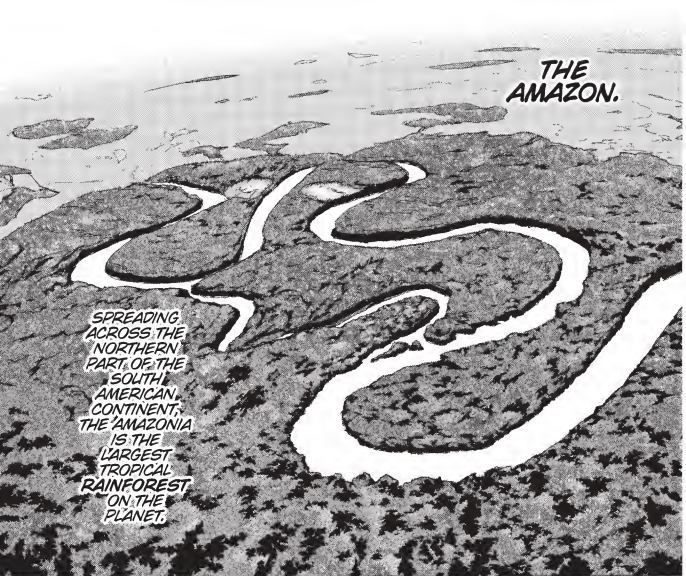
HEH
HEH.

THERE
HE
GOES
...

SEE
THAT,
HAMA?
NOW
WE'RE
FINALLY
EVEN.

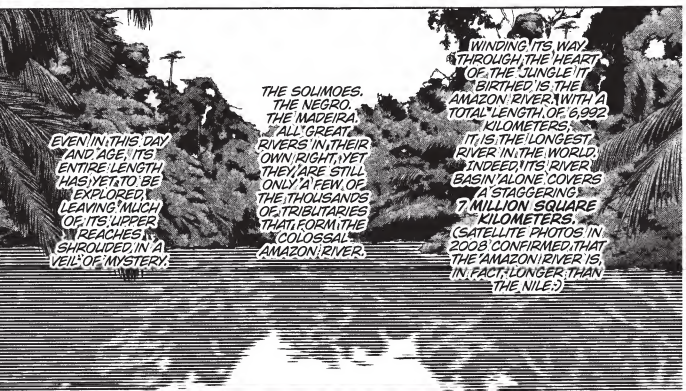


**YOU'VE
GOT
TO BE
FREAKIN'
KIDDING
ME!!**



THE AMAZON.

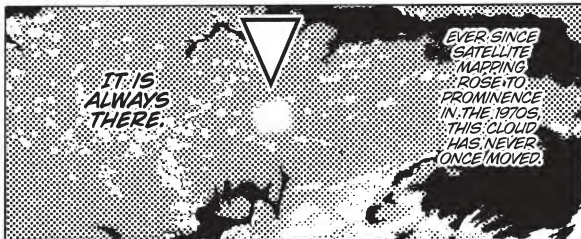
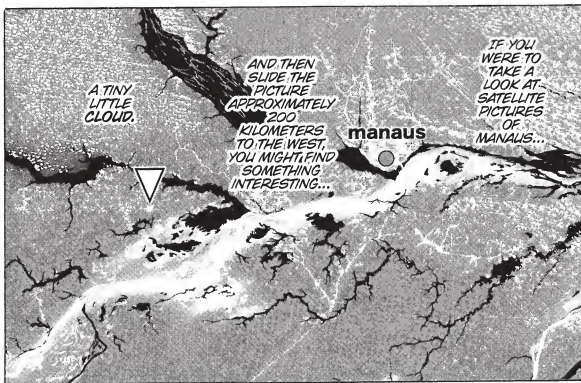
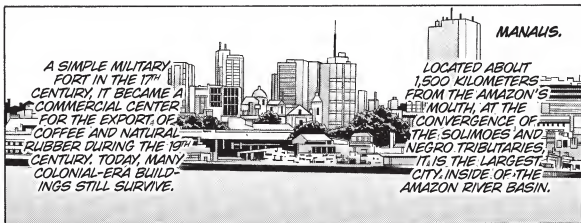
SPREADING
ACROSS THE
NORTHERN
PART OF THE
SOUTH
AMERICAN
CONTINENT,
THE 'AMAZONIA
IS THE
LARGEST
TROPICAL
RAINFOREST
ON THE
PLANET.

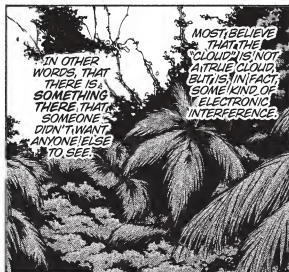


WINDING ITS WAY
THROUGH THE 'HEART
OF THE JUNGLE IT
'BIRTHE'D IS THE
AMAZON RIVER, WITH A
TOTAL LENGTH OF 6,992
KILOMETERS.
IT IS THE LONGEST
RIVER IN THE WORLD.
INDEED, ITS RIVER
BASIN ALONE COVERS
A STAGGERING
7 MILLION SQUARE
KILOMETERS.
(SATELLITE PHOTOS IN
2003 CONFIRMED THAT
THE AMAZON RIVER IS,
IN FACT, LONGER THAN
THE NILE.)

EVEN IN THIS DAY
AND AGE, ITS
ENTIRE LENGTH
HAS YET TO BE
EXPLORED,
LEAVING MUCH
OF ITS UPPER
REACHES
SHROUDED IN A
VEIL OF MYSTERY.

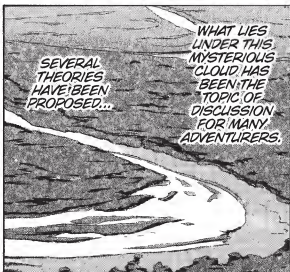
THE SOLIMOES.
THE NEGRO.
THE MADEIRA.
ALL 'GREAT
RIVERS IN THEIR
OWN RIGHT, YET
THEY ARE STILL
ONLY A FEW OF
THE THOUSANDS
OF TRIBUTARIES
THAT FORM THE
COLOSSAL
AMAZON RIVER.





IN OTHER
WORDS, THAT
THERE IS
SOMETHING
THERE THAT
SOMEONE
DIDN'T WANT
ANYONE ELSE
TO SEE.

MOST BELIEVE
THAT THE
"CLOUD" IS NOT
A TRUE CLOUD,
BUT IS, IN FACT,
SOME KIND OF
ELECTRONIC
INTERFERENCE.



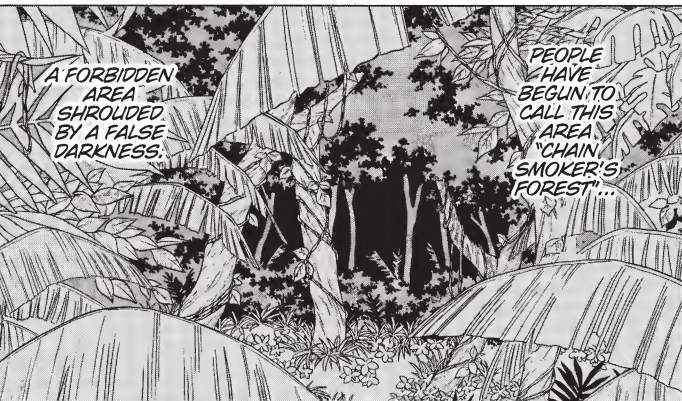
SEVERAL
THEORIES
HAVE BEEN
PROPOSED...

WHAT LIES
UNDER THIS
MYSTERIOUS
"CLOUD" HAS
BEEN THE
TOPIC OF
DISCUSSION
FOR MANY
ADVENTURERS.



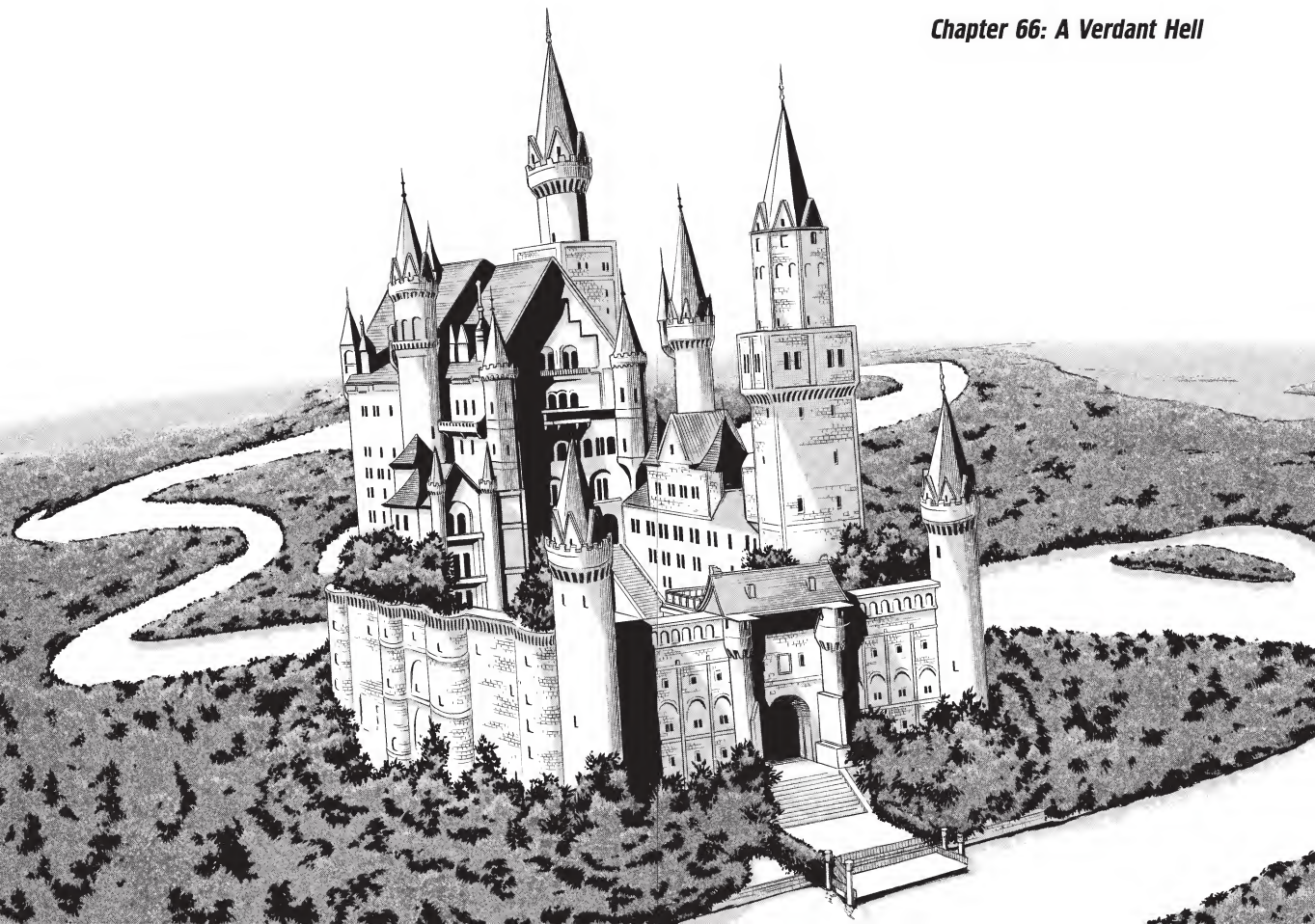
NONE OF
THEM HAVE
EVER
RETURNED.

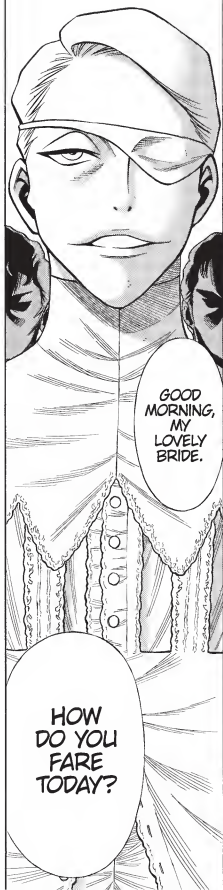
DOZENS OF
ADVENTURERS
HAVE BRAVED
THE PRIMITIVE
DEPTHS OF THE
AMAZON,
SEEKING TO
FIND THE TRUTH
BEHIND THIS
MYSTERY...



A FORBIDDEN
AREA
SHROUDED
BY A FALSE
DARKNESS.

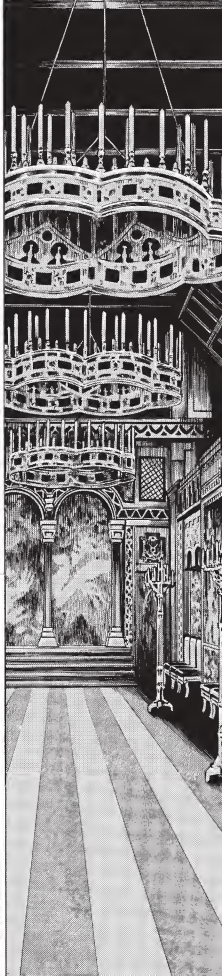
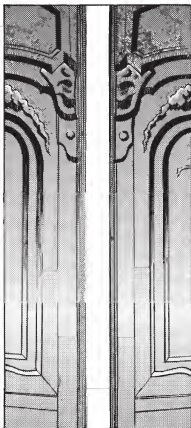
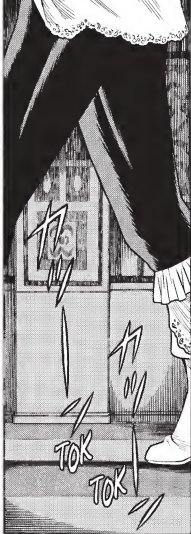
PEOPLE
HAVE
BEGUN TO
CALL THIS
AREA
"CHAIN
SMOKER'S
FOREST"...

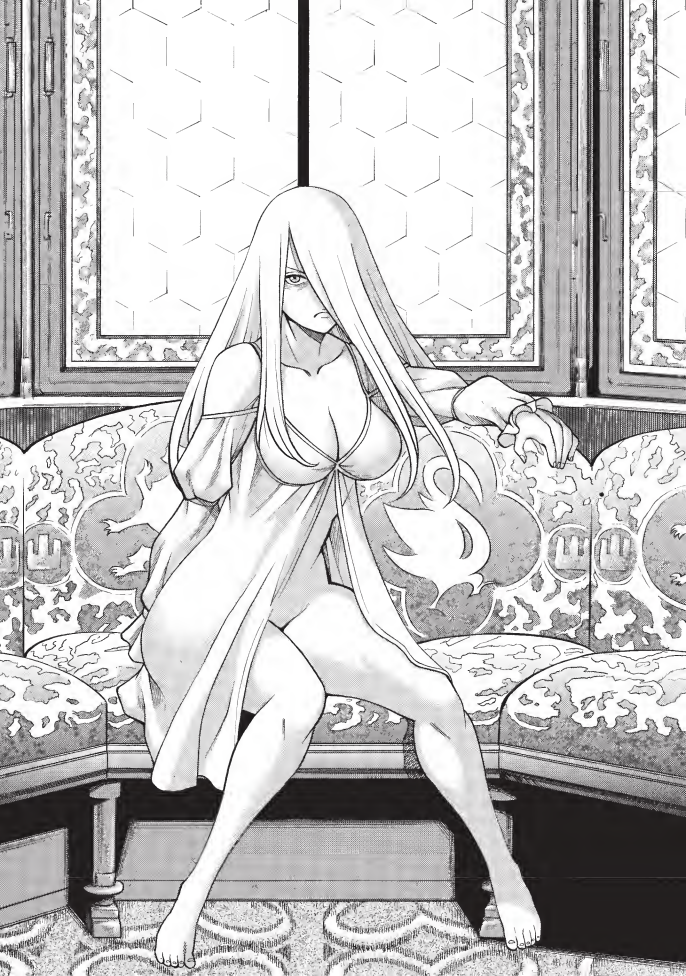


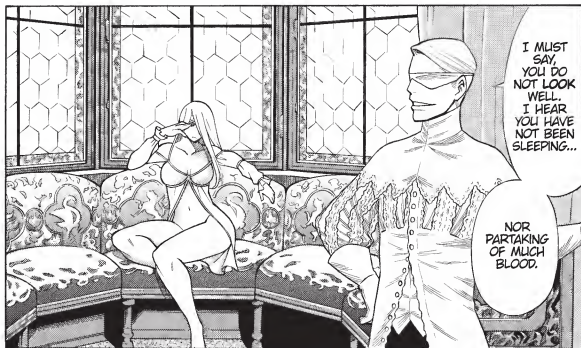


GOOD
MORNING,
MY
LOVELY
BRIDE.

HOW
DO YOU
FARE
TODAY?







I MUST SAY, YOU DO NOT LOOK WELL. I HEAR YOU HAVE NOT BEEN SLEEPING...

NOR PARTAKING OF MUCH BLOOD.



IT MAY SEEM RATHER HUMBLE ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT THIS IS THE CORNERSTONE OF CLAN ROZENMANN.

"FESTERING PIT"? REALLY NOW, MY DEAR...



A STONE CASTLE BUILT IN THE VERY HEART OF THE AMAZON...? PREPOSTEROUS.

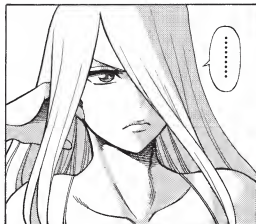
HMPH. I HAD HEARD THAT THERE ONCE WAS A FOOL WHO DECIDED TO BUILD AN OPERA HOUSE IN MANAUS*, NEVER MIND THAT IT IS NEARLY A THOUSAND MILES DEEP IN THE JUNGLE, WITH THE FURNISHINGS IMPORTED ALL THE WAY FROM PARIS, NO LESS.

BUT THIS...? THIS MAKES THAT EXTRAVAGANT BIT OF FRIVOLITY LOOK POSITIVELY TAME IN COMPARISON.



WHO COULD RELAX IN THIS FESTERING PIT OF VIPERS? THE VERY IDEA IS RIDICULOUS.

*During the rubber boom in the 1800s, the Teatro Amazonas opera house was built in Manaus with costly imported building materials, and filled with European art, crystal, and furnishings.



THIS IS A
DISPLAY OF
POWER THAT
ONLY THOSE
OF VAMPIRE
ROYALTY
CAN
COMMAND.
OF COURSE,
NEITHER YOU
NOR YOUR
MOTHER
EVER PAID
MUCH
ATTENTION
TO SUCH
THINGS.

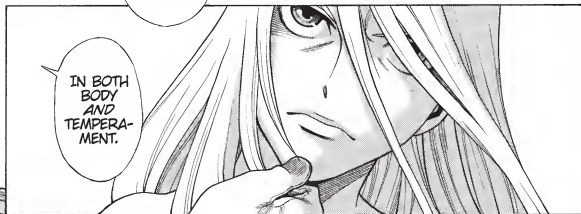
IMAGE,
MY
BRIDE.

IT IS ALL
ABOUT
THE IMAGE,
THE
TRAPPINGS
OF
POWER.

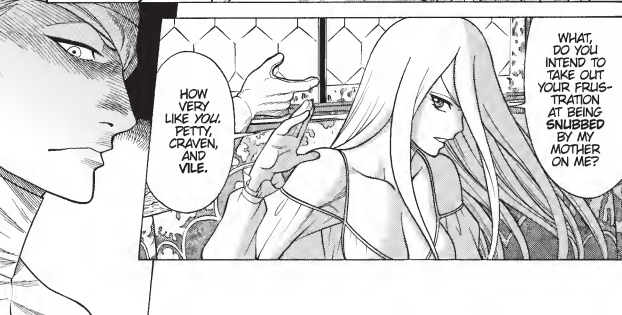


INDEED,
YOU
NEARLY
ARE HER,
COME
AGAIN...

YOU
LOOK
SO
MUCH
LIKE
HER.

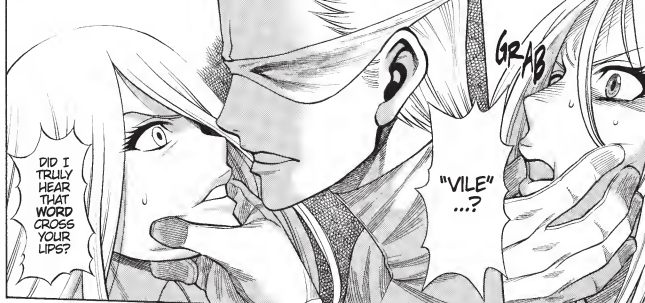


IN BOTH
BODY
AND
TEMPER-
AMENT.



HOW
VERY
LIKE YOU.
PETTY,
CRAVEN,
AND
VILE.

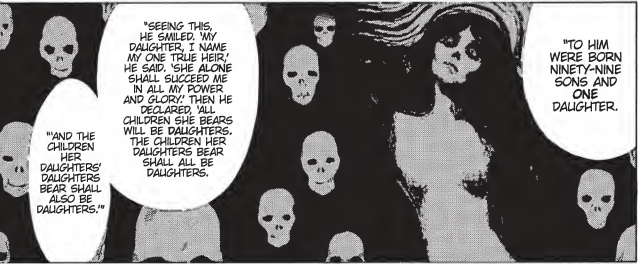
WHAT,
DO YOU
INTEND TO
TAKE OUT
YOUR FRUS-
TRATION
AT BEING
SNUBBED
BY MY
MOTHER
ON ME?





"THE FATHER OF
ALL VAMPIRES,
THE ONE TRUE
CREATOR OF
THE CHILDREN
OF THE NIGHT,
DESCENDED
TO EARTH AND
REIGNED IN THE
PROMISED LAND.

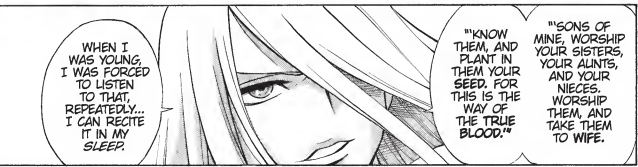
"IN
ANCIENT
TIMES
..."



"SEEING THIS,
HE SMILED, 'MY
DAUGHTER, I NAME
MY ONE TRUE HEIR,'
HE SAID. 'SHE ALONE
SHALL SUCCEED ME
IN ALL MY POWER
AND GLORY.' THEN HE
DECLARED, 'ALL
CHILDREN SHE BEARS
WILL BE DAUGHTERS.
THE CHILDREN HER
DAUGHTERS BEAR
SHALL ALL BE
DAUGHTERS.

"AND THE
CHILDREN HER
DAUGHTERS' DAUGHTERS
BEAR SHALL
ALSO BE
DAUGHTERS."

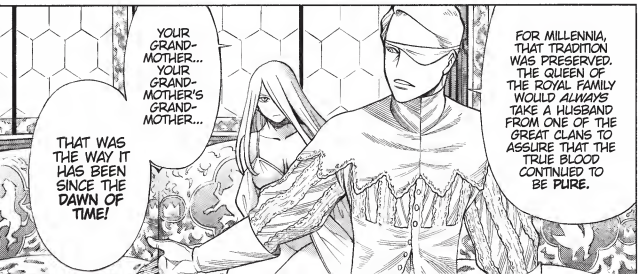
"TO HIM
WERE BORN
NINETY-NINE
SONS AND
ONE
DAUGHTER.



WHEN I
WAS YOUNG,
I WAS FORCED
TO LISTEN
TO THAT,
REPEATEDLY...
I CAN RECITE
IT IN MY
SLEEP.

"KNOW
THEM, AND
PLANT IN
THEM YOUR
SEED. FOR
THIS IS THE
WAY OF
THE TRUE
BLOOD."

"SONS OF
MINE, WORSHIP
YOUR SISTERS,
YOUR AUNTS,
AND YOUR
NIECES.
WORSHIP
THEM, AND
TAKE THEM
TO WIFE.



YOUR
GRAND-
MOTHER...
YOUR
GRAND-
MOTHER'S
GRAND-
MOTHER...

THAT WAS
THE WAY IT
HAS BEEN
SINCE THE
DAWN OF
TIME!

FOR MILLENNIA,
THAT TRADITION
WAS PRESERVED.
THE QUEEN OF
THE ROYAL FAMILY
WOULD ALWAYS
TAKE A HUSBAND
FROM ONE OF THE
GREAT CLANS TO
ASSURE THAT THE
TRUE BLOOD
CONTINUED TO
BE PURE.



THE CLANS
FELL INTO
CHAOS.
BROTHER
FOUGHT
AGAINST
BROTHER
UNTIL BOTH
WERE
DEAD!

IF IT HADN'T
BEEN FOR US,
THE THREE
GREAT CLANS,
THAT WAR
MIGHT HAVE
WIPE OUT
THE ENTIRE
VAMPIRE
NATION.



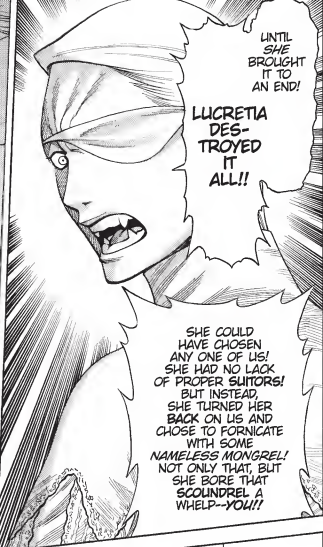
AND YOU
BELIEVE
THAT WITH
EVERY
FIBER OF
YOUR
BEING, I'M
SURE...

BUT THAT
DOESN'T
MAKE IT
ANY LESS
OF AN
EXCUSE.



CAN YOU
IMAGINE
THE
HUMILIA-
TION...?

THE
DIGNITY
OF THE
ENTIRE
ROYAL
LINE WAS
CAST
INTO THE
MUD.



UNTIL
SHE
BROUGHT
IT TO
AN END!

LUCRETIA
DES-
TROYED
IT
ALL!!

SHE COULD
HAVE CHOSEN
ANY ONE OF US!
SHE HAD NO LACK
OF PROPER SUITORS!
BUT INSTEAD,
SHE TURNED HER
BACK ON US AND
CHOSE TO FORNICATE
WITH SOME
NAMELESS MONGREL!
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT
SHE BORE THAT
SCOUNDREL A
WHELP--YOW!!



DO YOU
HAVE
ANY IDEA
OF THE
ENORMITY
OF HER
SIN?!

SINCE THEN,
IT HAS BEEN
AN AGE OF
DARKNESS!
AN AGE OF
TERROR
FOR THE
CHILDREN OF
THE NIGHT!!

THE
QUEEN
HERSELF
ENDED THE
ROYAL LINE.
SHE ENDED
THOUSANDS
OF YEARS
OF GLORIOUS
HISTORY
WITH HER
OWN
SULLIED
HANDS!!



I FOUND
A KEY,
AND I USED IT...
UNAWARE
OF THE
HELL THAT
IT WOULD
UNLEASH.

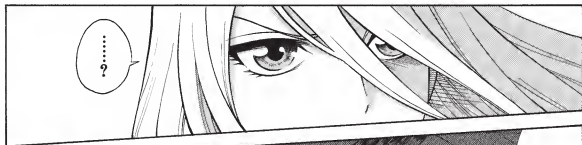
AND I FOUND
A WAY.

THAT
WAS
WHEN I
BEGAN
MY
FRANTIC
SEARCH.

THERE HAD
TO BE A WAY
TO PRESERVE
THE SANCTITY
OF THE
ROYAL LINE.
THE PURITY
OF THE
TRUE BLOOD
HAD TO BE
RETAINED, NO
MATTER WHAT
THE COST.

HMPH.
EASY
FOR YOU TO
SAY.

ANYONE WHO
REMEMBERS
THAT TERRIBLE
TIME WOULD
SIMPLY NOD
THEIR HEAD IN
AGREEMENT.



...
?



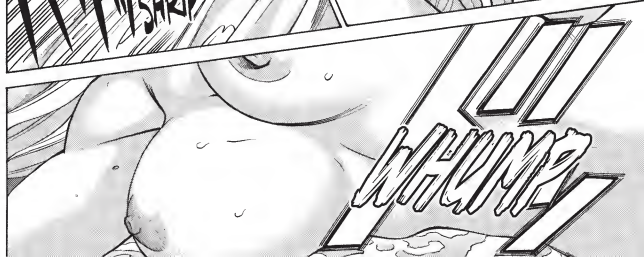
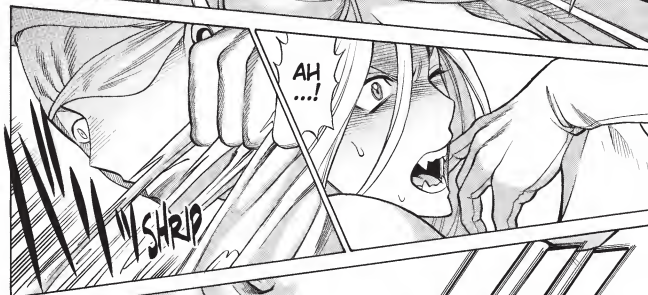
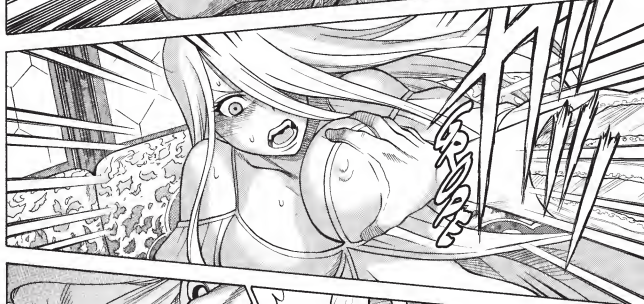
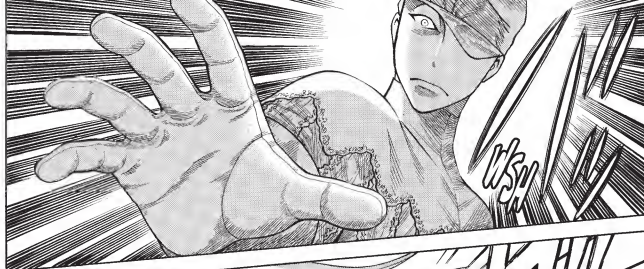
THE
PRESENT
MOMENT
IS
EVERY-
THING...

AND
RIGHT
NOW,
I HAVE
YOU.

NAUGHT
CAN BE
DONE TO
CHANGE
IT.

BUT
NONE
OF THAT
IS OF
ANY
CONSE-
QUENCE
NOW.

THAT
IS ALL
IN THE
PAST.





LUCRETIA
STEERED
THE ROYAL
LINE AWAY
FROM THE
TRUE
BLOOD...

I SHALL
BE THE
ONE TO
CORRECT
ITS
COURSE.

AND
I WILL
USE
YOU TO
DO IT...



WELL....?
GO ON!

OR ARE
YOU JUST
GOING TO
STAND
THERE AND
FIDGET LIKE
A VIRGIN
SCHOOLBOY,
WHILE YOU
STARE AT
ME?



WHY
HESITATE?
FORCE
YOURSELF
UPON ME!
FILL ME WITH
YOUR SEED,
AND MAKE ME
BEAR YOUR
CHILD!

THEN
WHY
HAVEN'T
YOU
RAPED
ME
YET?



DO
YOU
WANT
ME TO
TELL
YOU
WHY
YOU
WON'T
?

BECAUSE
WHATEVER
IT IS
YOU'RE
DOING
TO ME,
IT'S NOT
COMPLETE
YET.



WHATEVER
DRUG
YOU ARE
CONCOCTING
TO FREEZE
ME IN MY
AVATAR
FORM, IT'S
NOT QUITE
STABLE YET,
IS IT?

YOU HAVE
NO IDEA
OF HOW
LONG IT
WILL
ACTUALLY
LAST.

SO, EVEN IF
YOU WERE TO
IMPREGNATE ME,
IF I SUDDENLY
REVERTED BACK
TO MY CHILD
FORM BEFORE
THE INFANT WAS
BORN, YOU ARE
STUCK RIGHT
BACK AT
SQUARE
ONE!!



HIT
THE
NAIL ON
THE
HEAD,
I SEE.

.....



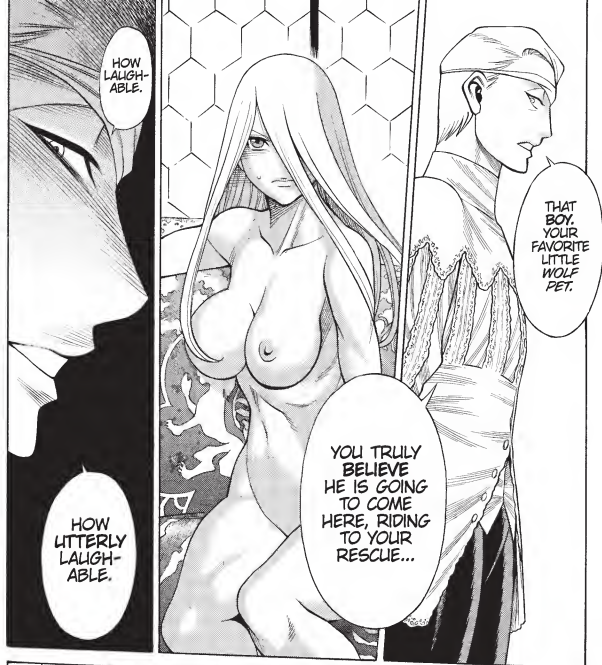
WHO IS
THE ONE
TRULY
STALLING
FOR
TIME?
ME?

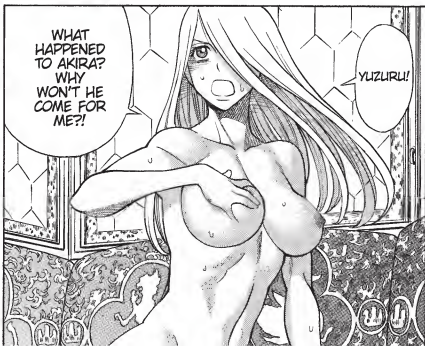


WELL,
IF YOU WANT
TO MAKE ME
YOURS IN
TRUTH, THEN I
SUGGEST YOU
GET TO WORK,
COMPLETING
THAT DRUG.

WHAT ARE
YOU STILL
STANDING
HERE FOR?
GET GOING.
YOU ARE
DISMISSED.

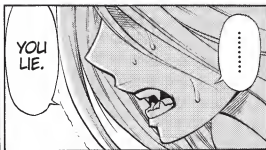
OR IS
IT
YOU?





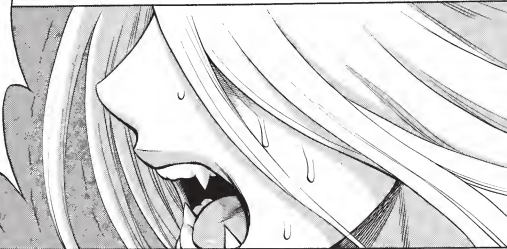


IT HAP-
PENED
TWO
WEEKS
AGO.



YOU
LIE.

**YOU'RE
LYING!!**



AKIRA
CAN'T
BE
DEAD!

**HE
WOULD
NEVER
LEAVE
ME
BEHIND!!**



NOT A
WORD
OF WHAT
YOU
SAY IS
TRUE,
YUZURU
!!

**YOU
JUST
MADE
THAT
UP TO
TORMENT
ME!**

YOUR
LOVED ONE
MAY BE
DEAD, BUT
IT'S NOT
LIKE YOU
WERE
THERE TO
WATCH HIS
DEATH.

YOU'RE
LUCKY.



NO...

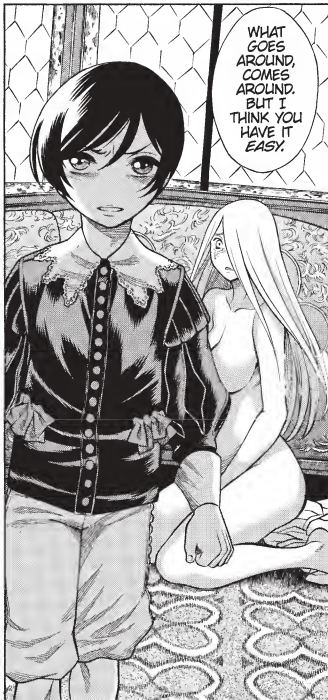
WHAT
GOES
AROUND,
COMES
AROUND.
BUT I
THINK YOU
HAVE IT
EASY.

NOR DID
YOU KILL
HIM WITH
YOUR
OWN
HANDS.



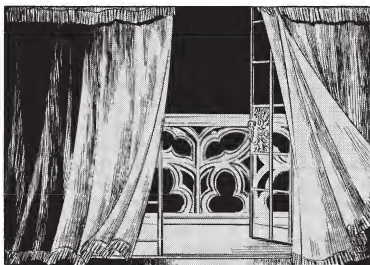
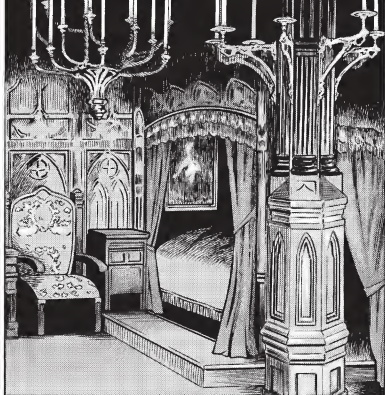
AKIRA
...

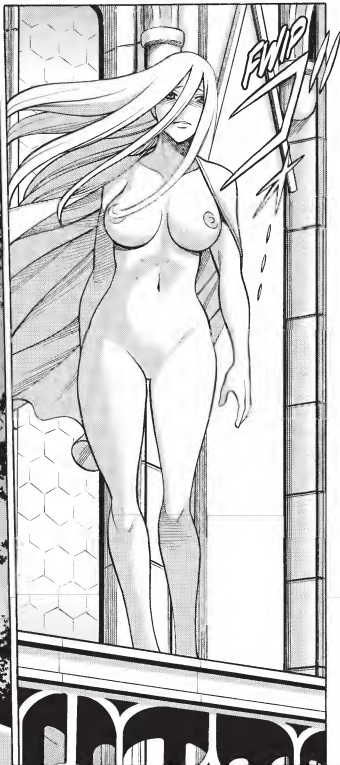
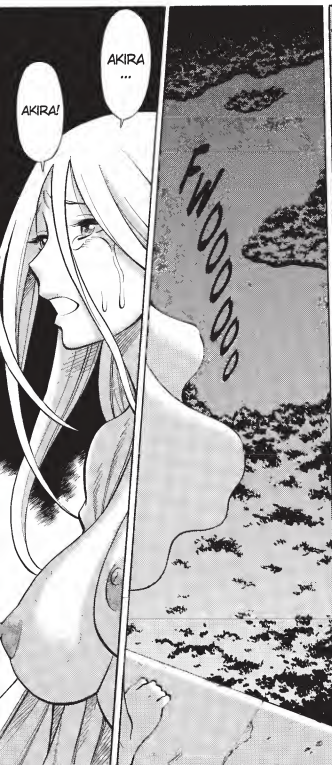
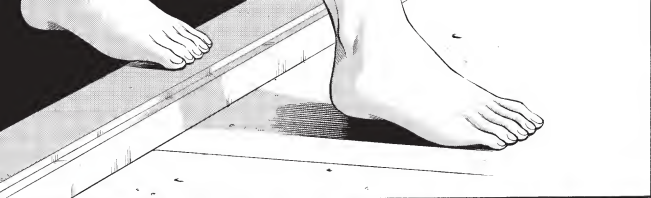
AAAH...

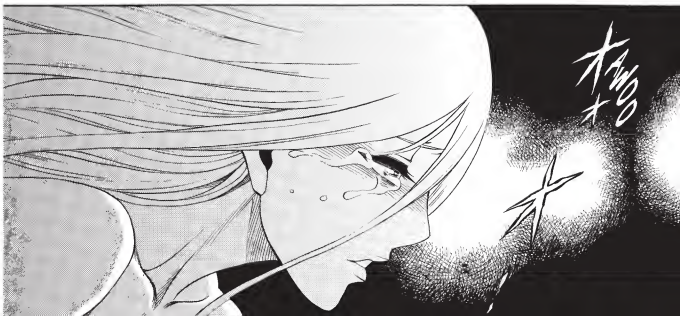


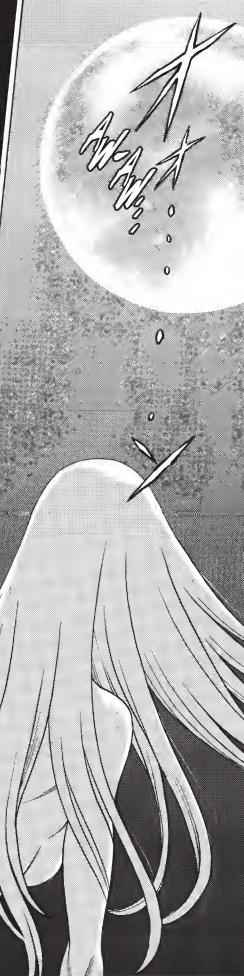


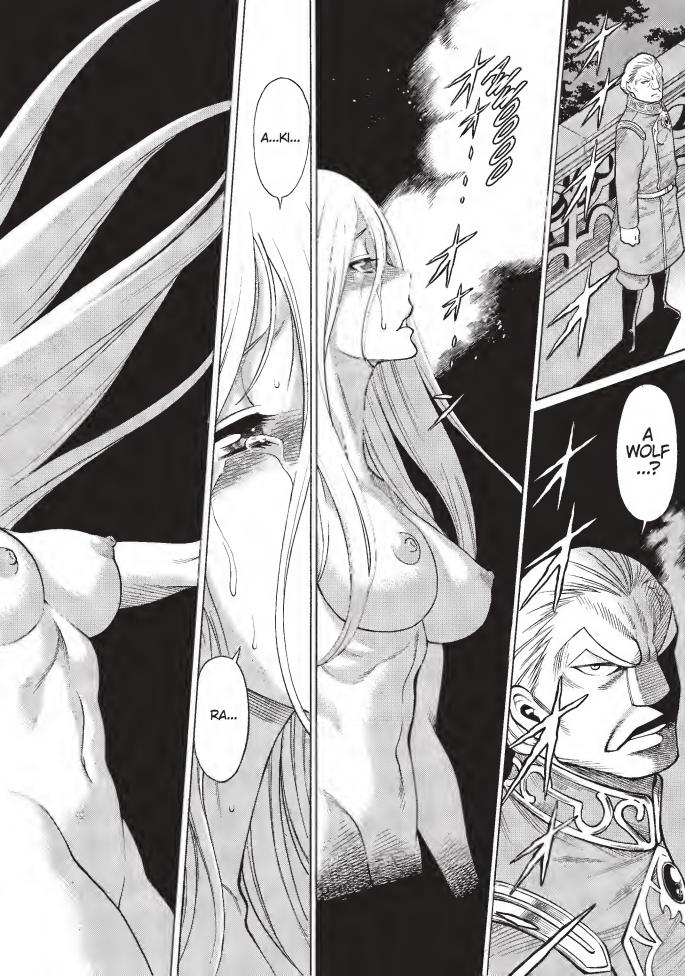




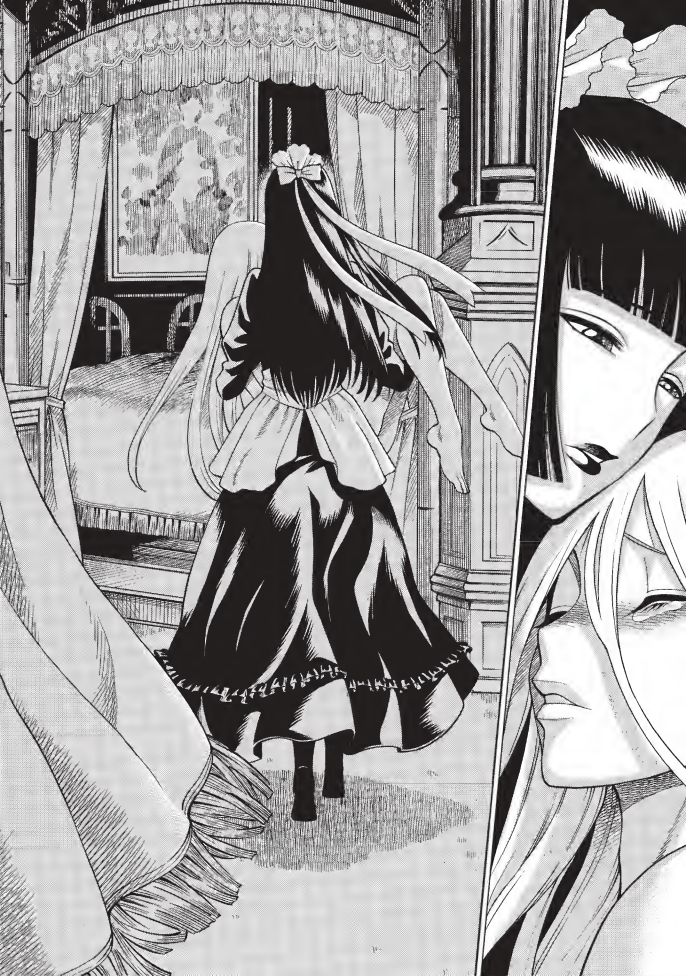




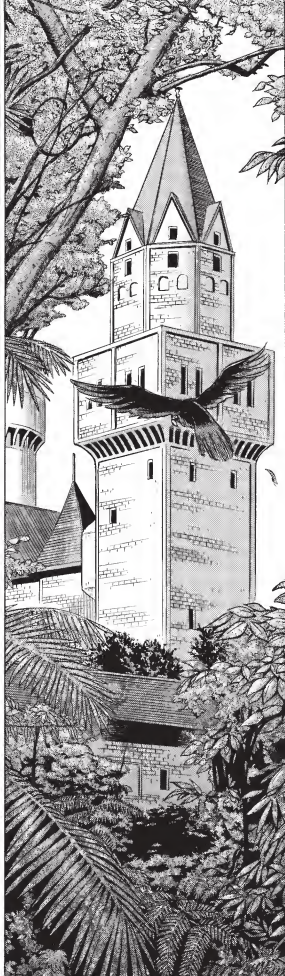


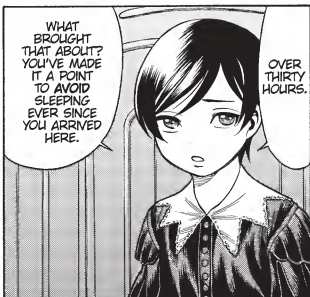
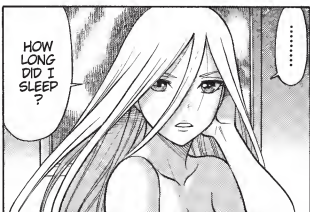
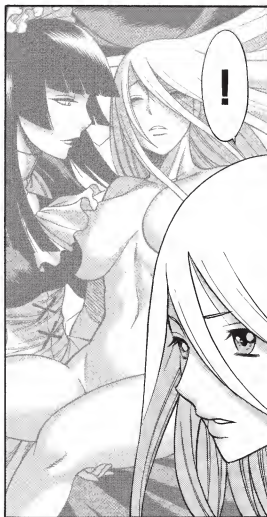






Chapter 67: Machinations



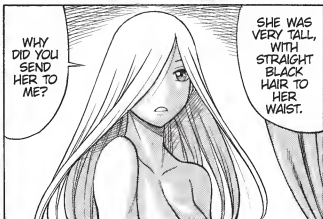




WE
DIDN'T.
THERE
IS NO
MAID
LIKE
THAT
HERE.



THERE
WAS A
MAID...



WHY
DID YOU
SEND
HER TO
ME?

SHE WAS
VERY TALL,
WITH
STRAIGHT
BLACK
HAIR TO
HER
WAIST.



BUT I AM
CERTAIN I
SAW HER
BEFORE I
FELL
ASLEEP...

WHAT
...?



IF YOU
TRULY
DESIRE
SOMEONE
TO TAKE
CARE OF
YOUR DAILY
NEEDS THAT
BADLY, THEN
WE CAN
PROVIDE
YOU WITH
SOME
ASSIST-
ANCE.

ENTER!

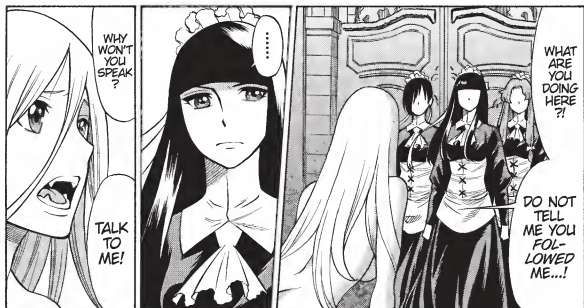
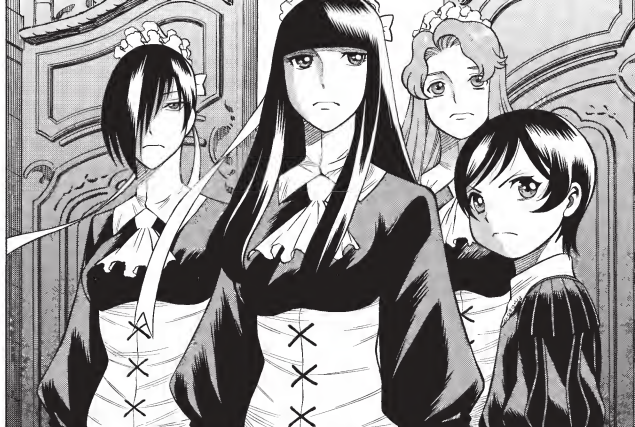


...

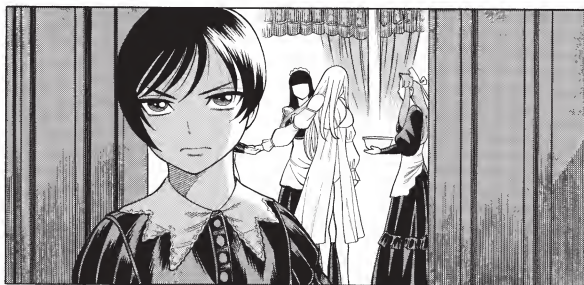
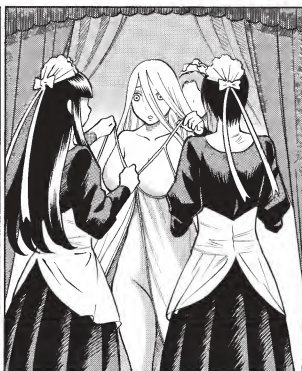
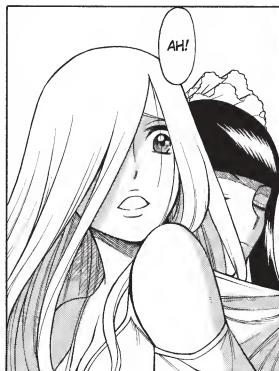


NO ONE
HAS COME
TO THIS
ROOM SINCE
MY LORD
AND I
LEFT HERE,
TWO DAYS
AGO.

MAYBE
YOU
WERE
JUST
DREAM-
ING.









HOWEVER, WE HAVE YET TO BE ABLE TO ISOLATE THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE RESPONSIBLE FOR DETERMINING A VAMPIRE'S AVATAR FORM. WITHOUT THIS, FURTHER RESEARCH IS... DIFFICULT.

IF A NEW DOSE IS NOT ADMINISTERED WITHIN THAT TIME FRAME, HER MAJESTY WILL REVERT TO HER ORIGINAL FORM. WE HAVE RESEARCHED THIS ISSUE EXTENSIVELY...

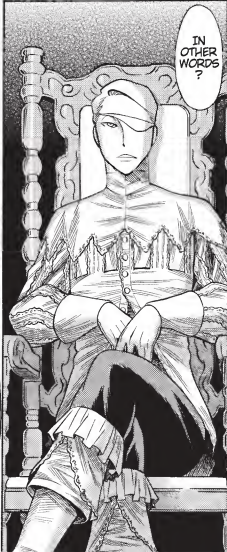
AT OUR CURRENT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT, THE AVATAR-CEMENTATION DRUG WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE FOR APPROXIMATELY TWELVE HOURS AFTER THE LAST DOSE.



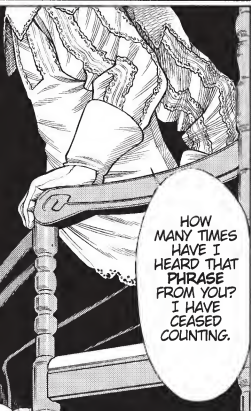
A DEAD END, HMP?



WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH DATA.

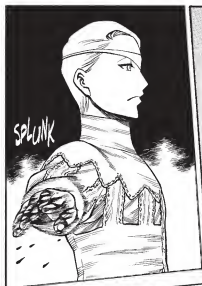


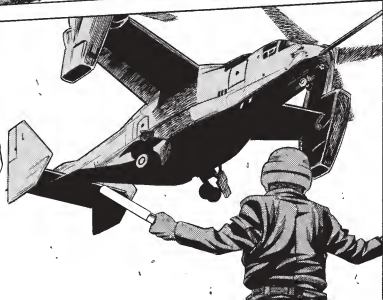
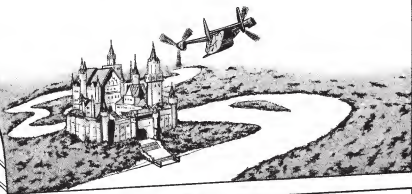
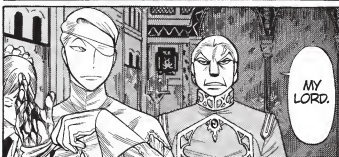
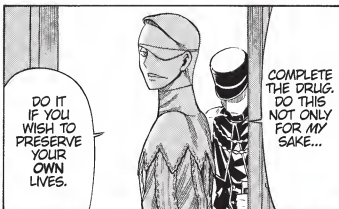
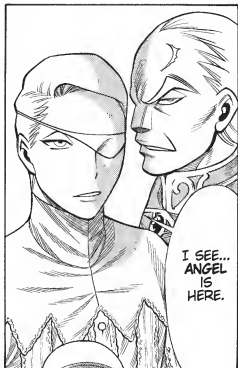
IN OTHER WORDS?

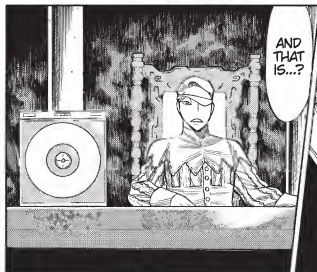


HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I HEARD THAT PHRASE FROM YOU? I HAVE CEASED COUNTING.

OUR RESEARCH SEEMS TO BE HEADED FOR A, ER... DEAD END, MY LORD.

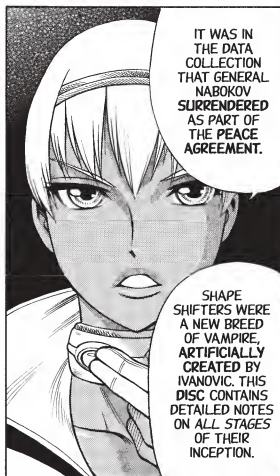
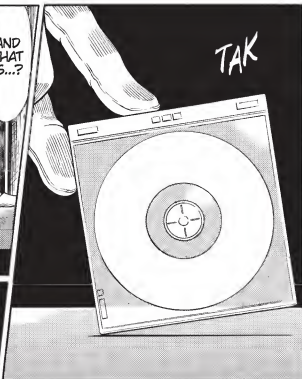






AND
THAT
IS...?

TAK

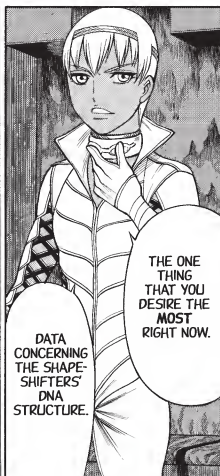


IT WAS IN
THE DATA
COLLECTION
THAT GENERAL
NABOKOV
SURRENDERED
AS PART OF
THE PEACE
AGREEMENT.

SHAPE
SHIFTERS WERE
A NEW BREED
OF VAMPIRE,
ARTIFICIALLY
CREATED BY
IVANOVIC. THIS
DISC CONTAINS
DETAILED NOTES
ON ALL STAGES
OF THEIR
INCEPTION.

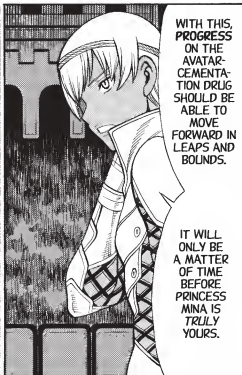
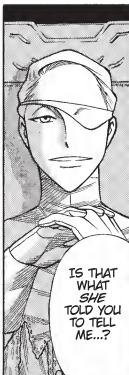


OH
...?



THE ONE
THING
THAT YOU
DESIRED THE
MOST
RIGHT NOW.

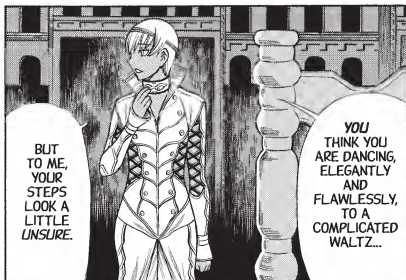
DATA
CONCERNING
THE SHAPE-
SHIFTERS'
DNA
STRUCTURE.



WITH THIS PROGRESS ON THE AVATAR-CEMENTATION DRUG SHOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE FORWARD IN LEAPS AND BOUNDS.

IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE PRINCESS MINA IS TRULY YOURS.

IS THAT WHAT SHE TOLD YOU TO TELL ME...?



BUT TO ME, YOUR STEPS LOOK A LITTLE UNSURE.

YOU THINK YOU ARE DANCING, ELEGANTLY AND FLAWLESSLY, TO A COMPLICATED WALTZ...

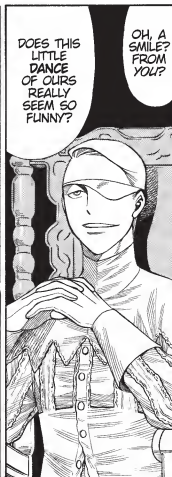
DOES THIS LITTLE DANCE OF OURS REALLY SEEM SO FUNNY?

OH, A SMILE? FROM YOU?



IF YOU WERE TO SUD-DENLY... TRIP.

IT WOULD NOT BE ODD AT ALL...





OR IS
THAT
JUST
YOU?



AND THAT
IS WHAT
TELOMERE
SO BREATH-
LESSLY
AWAITS?
THE MOMENT
WHEN I
"TRIP"?



HIS
BEAUTY
IS THAT
OF A
POISON-
OUS
FLOWER.

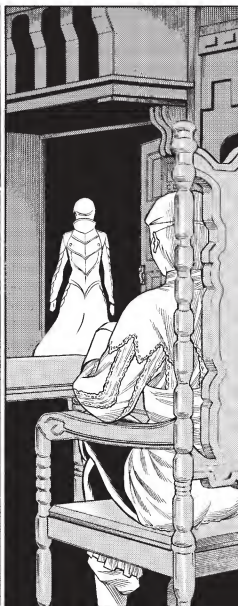
HOW
LOVELY.

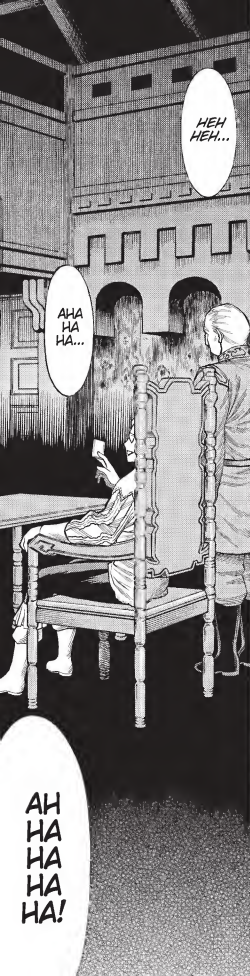


SURELY
YOU
JEST,
MY
LORD.

HE IS
THE ONLY
ONE WHO
WOULD BE
"POISONED"
IF YOU
SHOULD
DO SO.

I CANNOT
SAY I
WOULD
NOT
RELISH
THE
CHANCE
TO TASTE
IT.

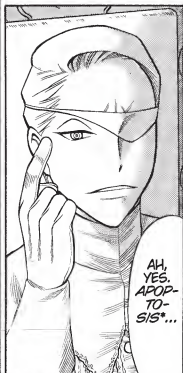




HEH
HEH...

AHA
HA
HA...

AH
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!



AH, YES.
APOPTO-
TO-
SIS*...



HE IS A
WERE-
WOLF.

NO
WEREWOLF
EVER
ALLOWS A
VAMPIRE
TO DRINK
ITS
BLOOD.

OUR
BITE IS
LETHAL
TO
THEM.

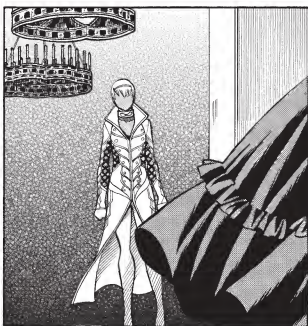
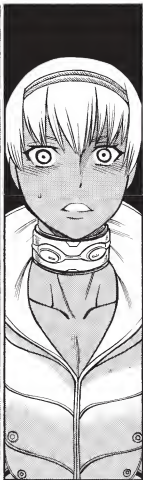
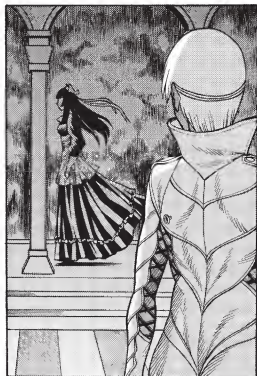
*Apoptosis is the process of programmed cell death. In this case, the death of an individual on a cellular level.

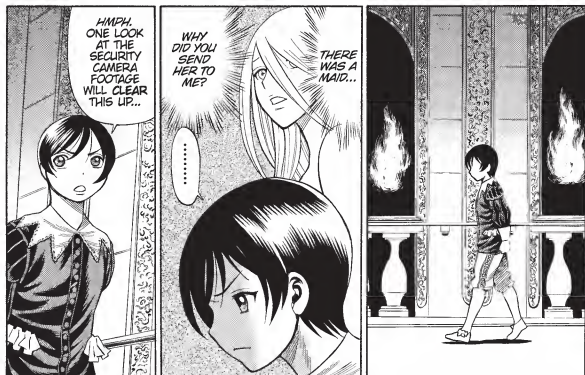
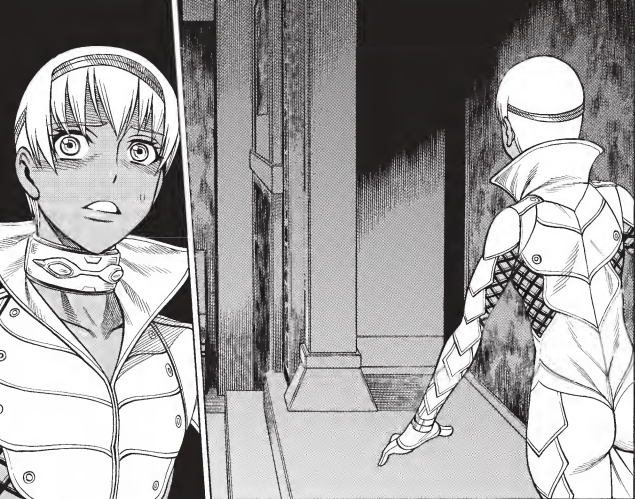


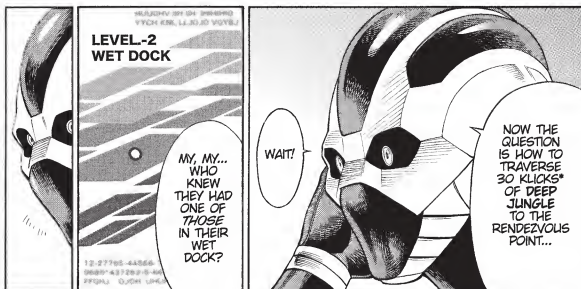
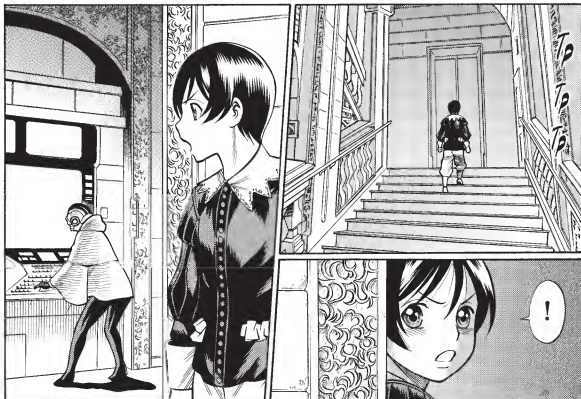
H/N.
THAT
POOR
DOCTOR
HAD NO
LUCK
AT
ALL...

IF ANGEL
HAD DELIVERED
THIS BUT
FIVE MINUTES
SOONER,
HE MIGHT NOT
HAVE LOST
HIS LIFE SO
MEANINGLESSLY
AFTER ALL.

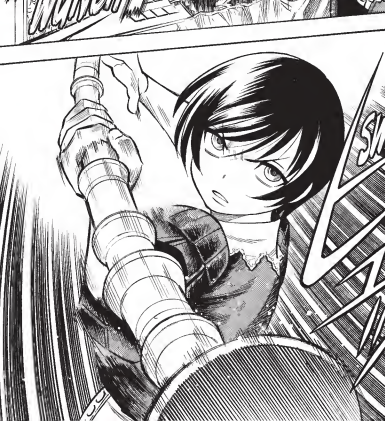




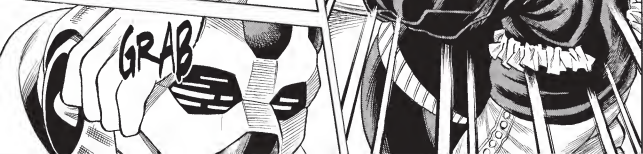


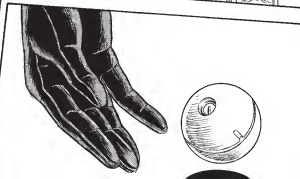


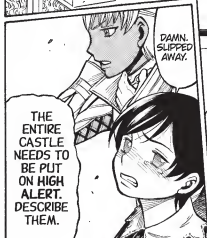
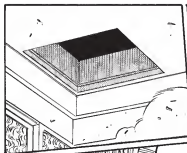
*Military slang for kilometer.











DAMN.
SLIPPED
AWAY.

THE
ENTIRE
CASTLE
NEEDS TO
BE PUT
ON HIGH
ALERT.
DESCRIBE
THEM.



YU-
ZURI!

ANGIE-
SAN.
THERE...
THERE
WAS AN
INTRUDER!

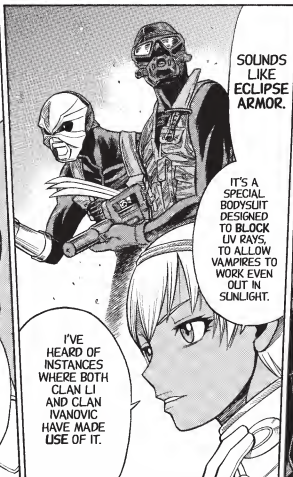


ACK!

NPH
...



SO, THAT
WAS A
SPY FROM
ANOTHER
CLAN?



SOUNDS
LIKE
ECLIPSE
ARMOR.

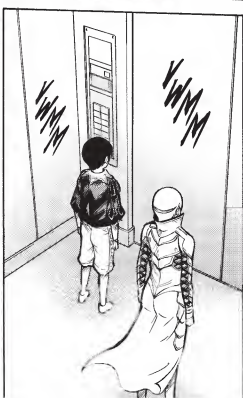
IT'S A
SPECIAL
BODYSUIT
DESIGNED
TO BLOCK
UV RAYS,
TO ALLOW
VAMPIRES TO
WORK EVEN
OUT IN
SUNLIGHT.

I'VE
HEARD OF
INSTANCES
WHERE BOTH
CLAN LI
AND CLAN
IVANOVIC
HAVE MADE
USE OF IT.



I
COULDN'T
SEE WHO
IT WAS.
THEY HAD A
MASK ON.

AND
SOME
KIND OF
TIGHT,
FORM-
FITTING
BLACK
SUIT.





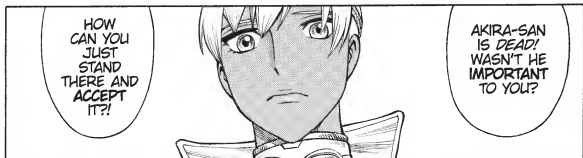
ISN'T
IT THE
SAME
FOR
YOU?!

THE ONE
PERSON
WHO WAS
MORE
IMPORTANT
TO ME THAN
ANYTHING
IS GONE.
WITHOUT
HER, WHY
SHOULD I
BOTHER TO
CLING TO
LIFE?



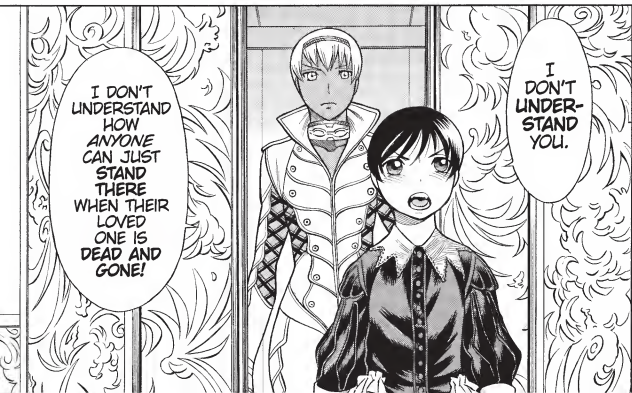
LEAVE
ME
ALONE!

I DON'T
CARE WHAT
HAPPENS
TO THIS
BODY OF
MINE.
IF I DIE,
THEN I
DIE.



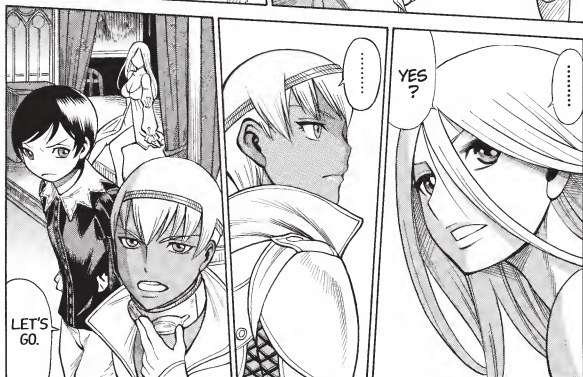
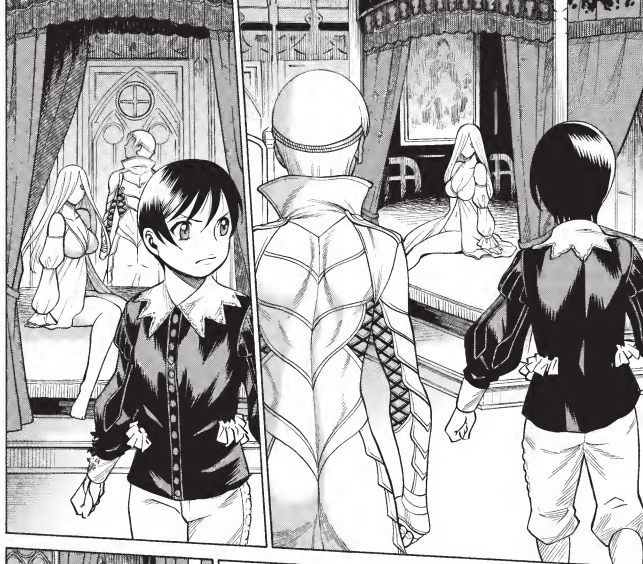
HOW
CAN YOU
JUST
STAND
THERE AND
ACCEPT
IT?!

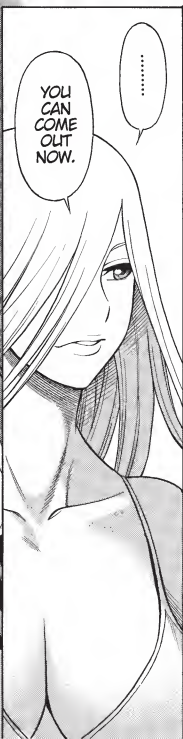
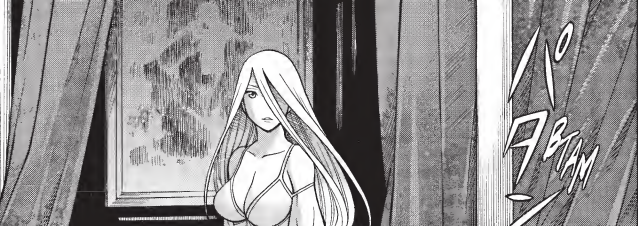
AKIRA-SAN
IS DEAD!
WASN'T HE
IMPORTANT
TO YOU?



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
HOW
ANYONE
CAN JUST
STAND
THERE
WHEN THEIR
LOVED
ONE IS
DEAD AND
GONE!

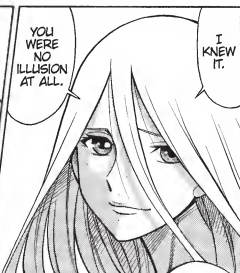
I
DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
YOU.







YOU
WERE
NO
ILLUSION
AT ALL.

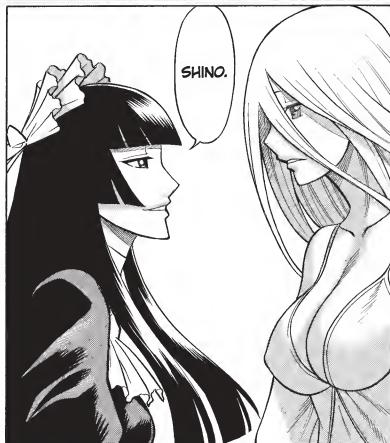


I
KNEW
IT.

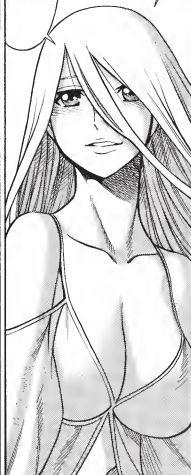


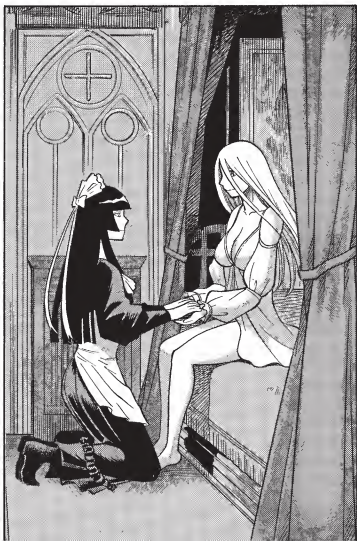
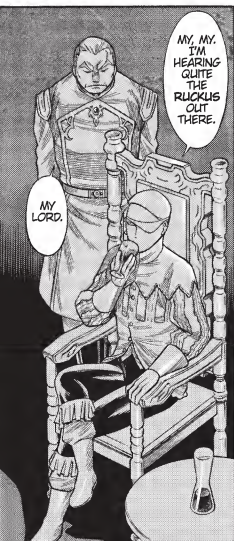
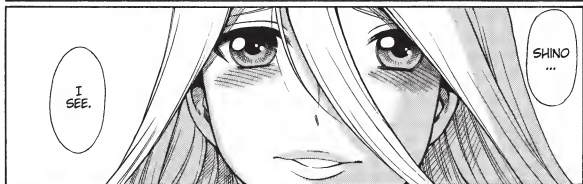
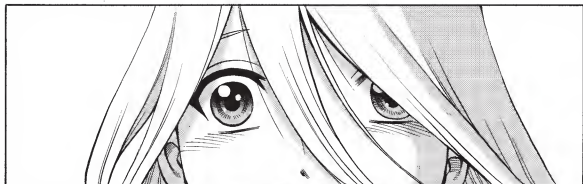
TELL
ME
YOUR
NAME.

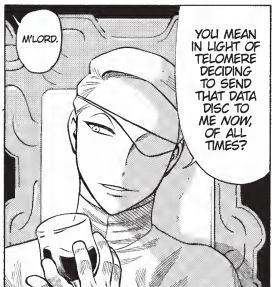
COME...

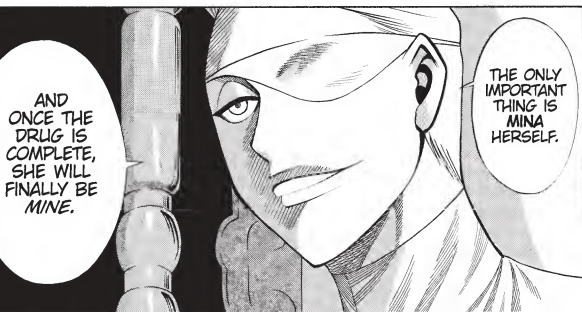
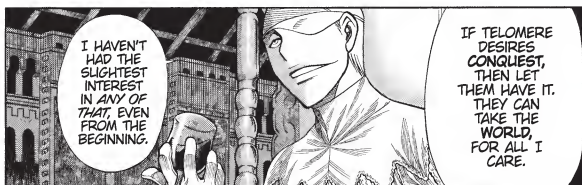


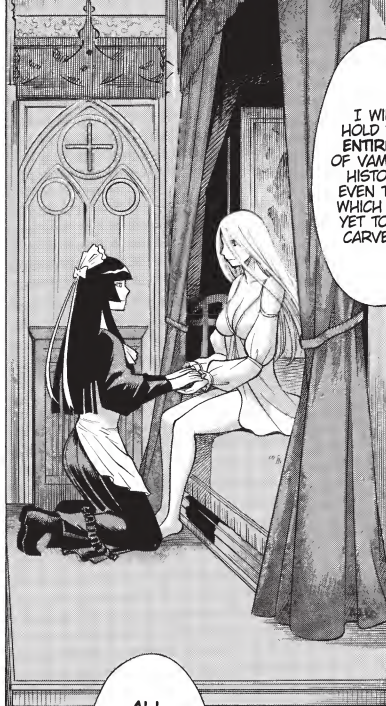
SHINO.







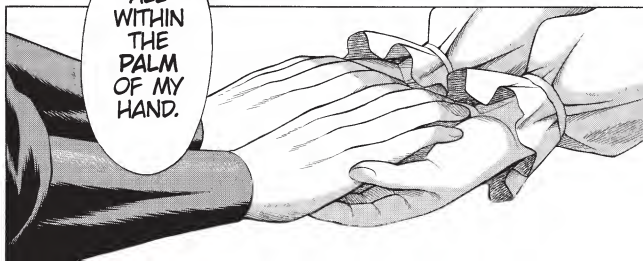


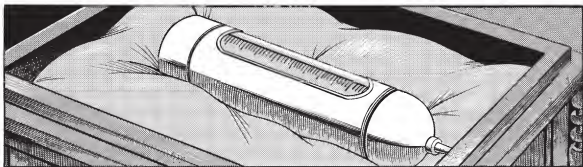
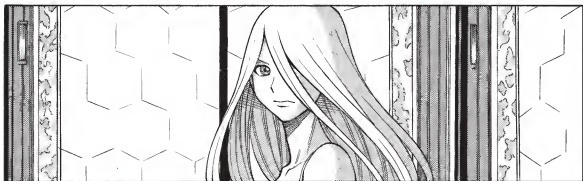
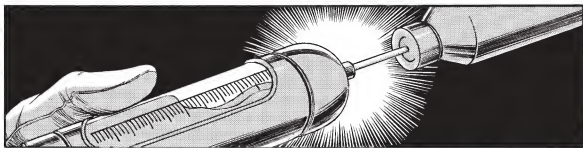
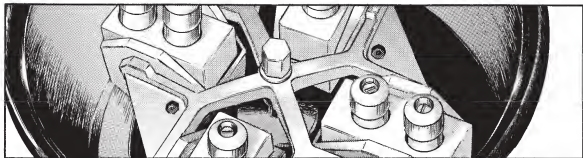


I WILL
HOLD THE
ENTIRETY
OF VAMPIRIC
HISTORY,
EVEN THAT
WHICH HAS
YET TO BE
CARVED...



ALL
WITHIN
THE
PALM
OF MY
HAND.





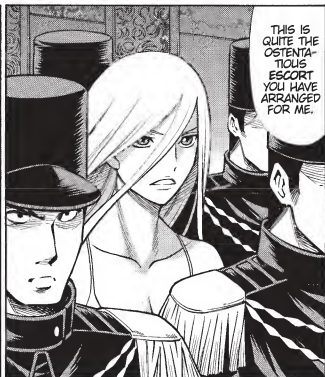


Chapter 68: For-You, A Thousand Times



.....

THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS OF... GHOSTS ABOUT THE CASTLE AS OF LATE, YOUR MAJESTY.



THIS IS QUITE THE OSTENTATIOUS ESCORT YOU HAVE ARRANGED FOR ME.

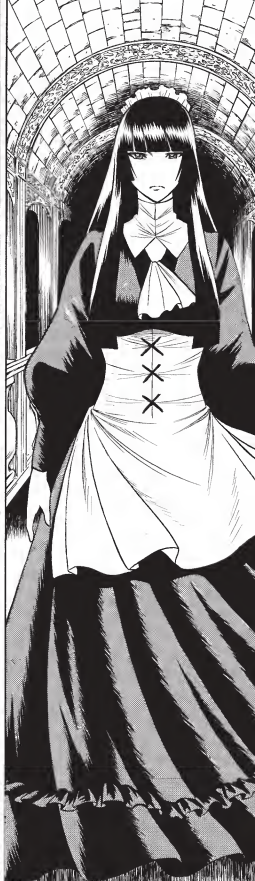


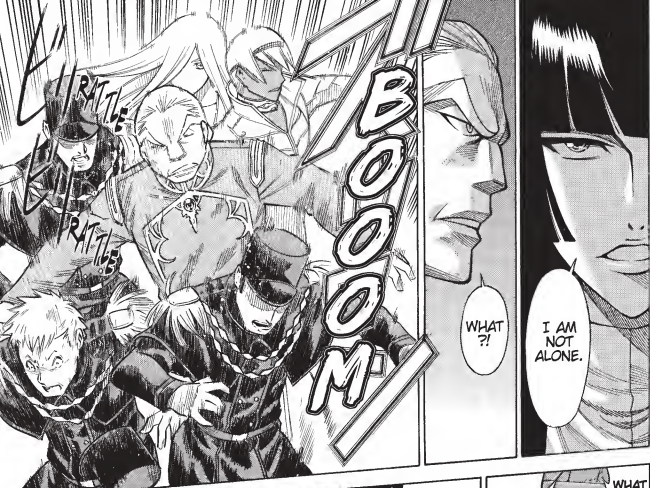
WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE? ARE THEY WHITE AND TRANSPARENT? OR PERHAPS THEY ARE DRESSED AS A MAID?

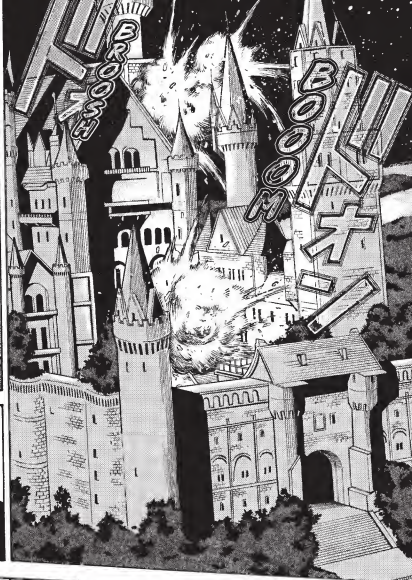
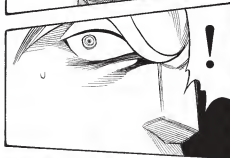
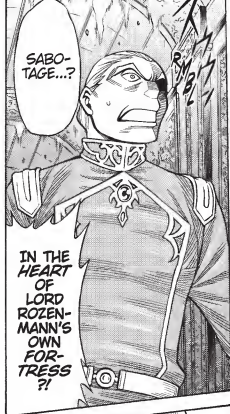


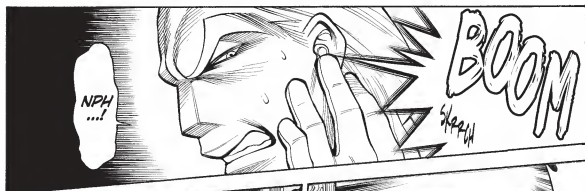
MY, MY! GHOSTS THAT CAN FRIGHTEN EVEN AN IMMORTAL VAMPIRE?

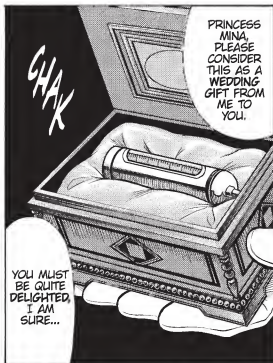
I THINK I SHOULD LIKE TO MEET ONE OF THOSE.











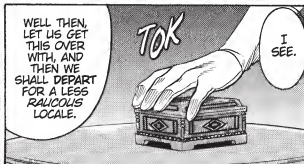
PRINCESS
MINA,
PLEASE
CONSIDER
THIS AS A
WEDDING
GIFT FROM
ME TO
YOU.

YOU MUST
BE QUITE
DELIGHTED,
I AM
SURE...



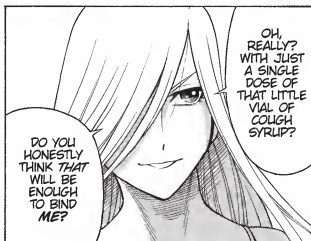
THEY
WILL NOT
GET FAR,
BUT THEY
HAVE
MANAGED
TO MAKE A
SLIGHT
BOTHR
OF THEM-
SELVES.

SABO-
TEURS
HAVE
INFIL-
TRATED
THE
CASTLE,
MY
LORD.



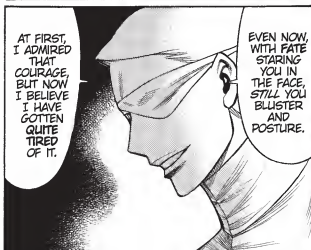
WELL THEN,
LET US GET
THIS OVER
WITH, AND
THEN WE
SHALL DEPART
FOR A LESS
RAUCOUS
LOCALE.

I
SEE.



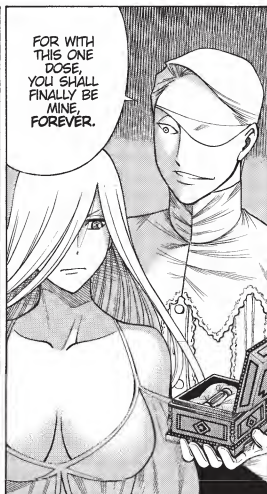
DO YOU
HONESTLY
THINK THAT
WILL BE
ENOUGH
TO BIND
ME?

OH,
REALLY?
WITH JUST
A SINGLE
DOSE OF
THAT LITTLE
VIAL OF
COUGH
SYRUP?

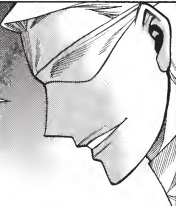


AT FIRST,
I ADMIR-
ED THAT
COURAGE,
BUT NOW
I BELIEVE
I HAVE
GOTTEN
QUITE
TIRED
OF IT.

EVEN NOW,
WITH FATE
STARING
YOU IN
THE FACE,
STILL YOU
BLUSTER
AND
POSTURE.



FOR WITH
THIS ONE
DOSE,
YOU SHALL
FINALLY BE
MINE,
FOREVER.



BUT I KNOW
YOU STILL
BELIEVE
THAT YOUR
FAITHFUL
KNIGHT
WILL COME
CHARGING TO
YOUR RESCUE,
BURSTING
THROUGH THE
GATES OF
HELL ITSELF
ON THE BACK
OF SOME
NIGHTMARE
STEED.

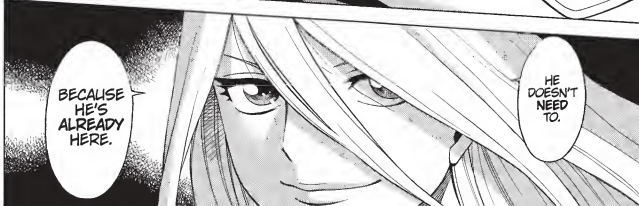
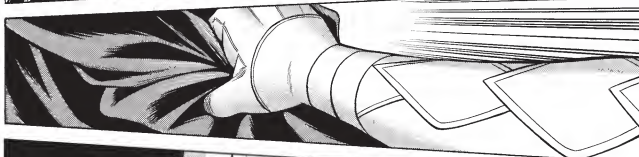
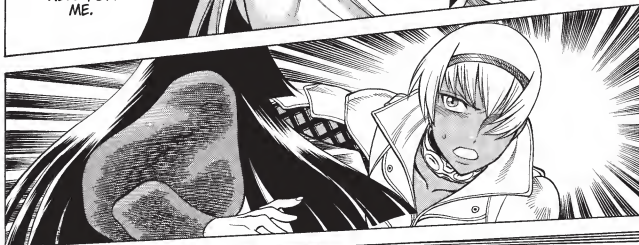


NO,
OF
COURSE
NOT.

DO YOU
THINK A FEW
RUFFIANS
CREATING AN
UPROAR IN
MY CASTLE
WILL MAKE
IT HERE IN
TIME TO
SAVE YOU?



NO,
HE WILL
NOT "COME
CHARGING"
OUT OF
HELL FOR
ME.

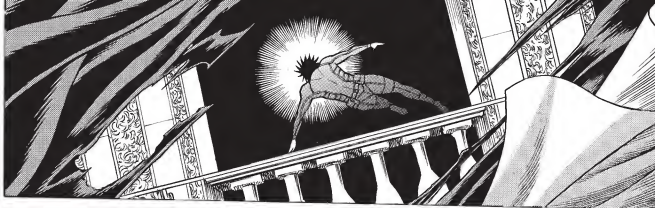


BECAUSE
HE'S
ALREADY
HERE.

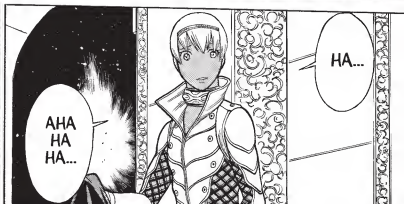
HE
DOESN'T
NEED
TO.



SHRIP



**AKIRA
WON'T
EVER
DIE!!**



AHA
HA
HA...

HA...



THAT'S
BECAUSE
I KNEW.

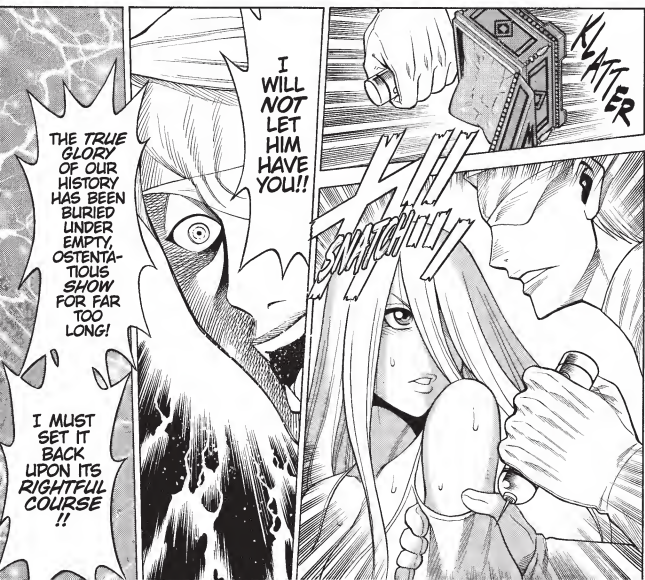
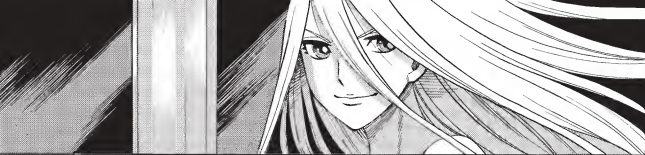
HE
COULDN'T
BE
DEAD...

DEEP
DOWN,
I JUST
KNEW.

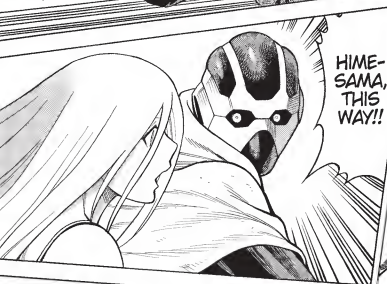
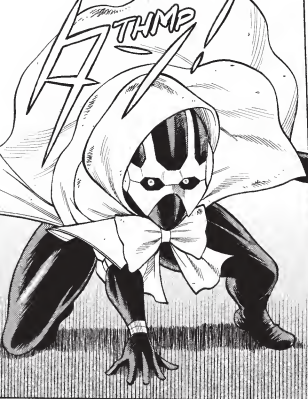
REMEMBER
WHAT YOU
ASKED
ME,
YUZURU
...?

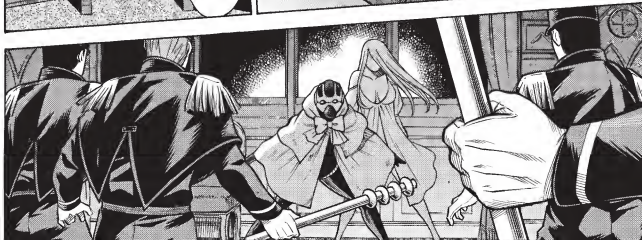
YOU
WONDERED
HOW I
COULD
BE
OKAY.

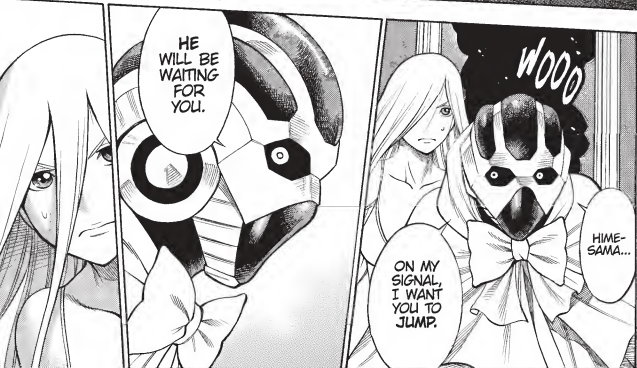
HOW I
COULD GO
ON LIVING
JUST FINE
WITHOUT
MY
BELOVED
ONE IN THE
WORLD...











4.

IT'S
NOT
FAIR...

M
I
N
N
N
A
A
A
!!!

3.

IT'S
NOT
FAIR
AT
ALL.

2.

ALWAYS
HIME-
SAMA.
ALWAYS
JUST
FOR
HER...!

1.

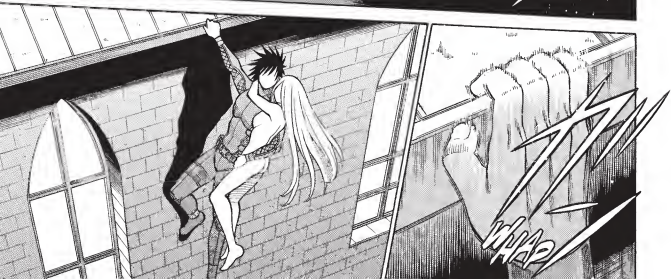
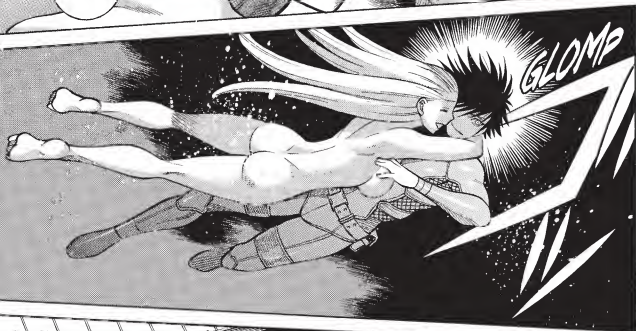
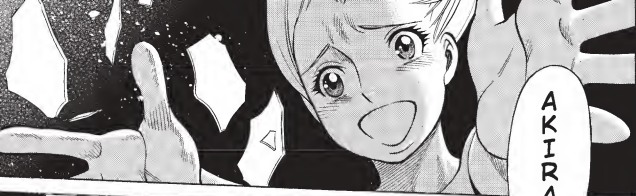
N
O
W
!!

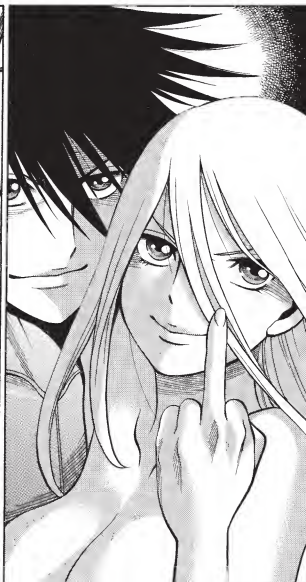
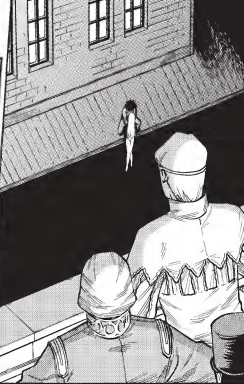
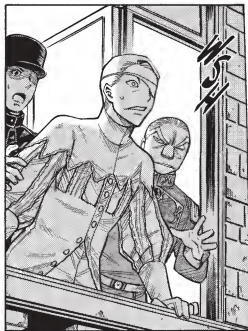
TMP





KROOSH







SO,
WHAT DID
THAT
GESTURE
MEAN?

UH, I
THINK
YOU'RE
BETTER
OFF NOT
KNOWING.



AHA
HA
HA
HA
HA!

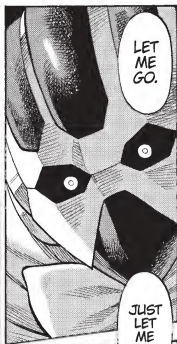
WHOOOPS!
I THINK
WE
PISSED
HIM
OFF!!



I
WANNA
GO
WHERE
ONEE-
CHAN
IS!

I
WANNA
BE
TOGE-
THER
WITH
HER
AGAIN!

I
MISS
HER
SO
MUCH!

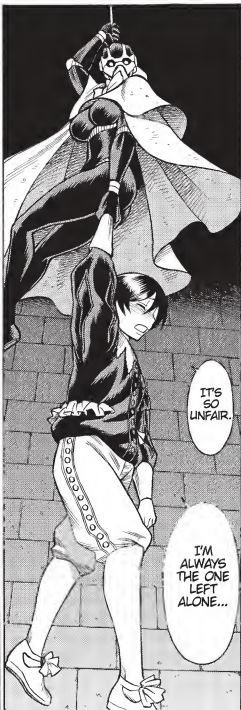


LET
ME
GO.

JUST
LET
ME
FALL.

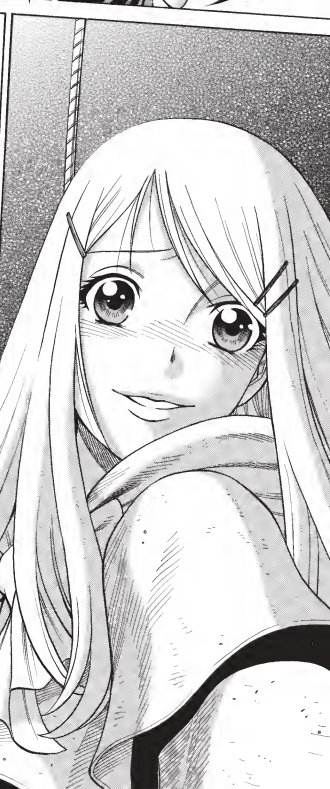
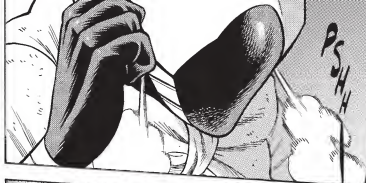


I'M
TIRED
OF
LIVING...



IT'S
SO
UNFAIR.

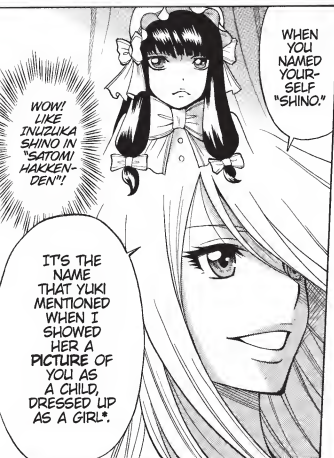
I'M
ALWAYS
THE ONE
LEFT
ALONE...





SO...

WHEN
DID YOU
REALIZE
IT WAS
ME,
HIME-
SAN?



WOW!
LIKE
INUZUKA
SHINO IN
"SATOMI
HAKKEN-
DEN"!

WHEN
YOU
NAMED
YOUR-
SELF
"SHINO."

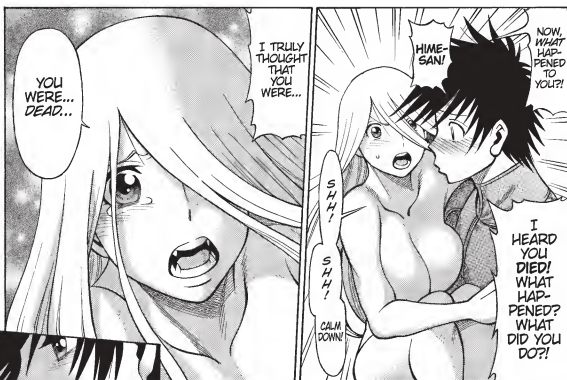
IT'S THE
NAME
THAT YUKI
MENTIONED
WHEN I
SHOWED
HER A
PICTURE OF
YOU AS
A CHILD,
DRESSED UP
AS A GIRL*.

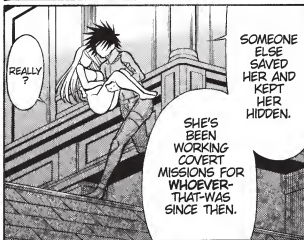
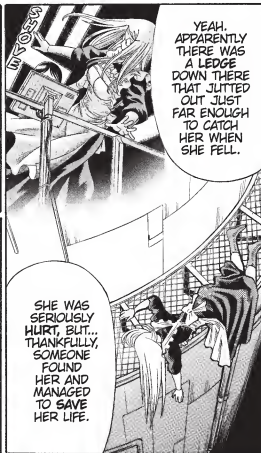
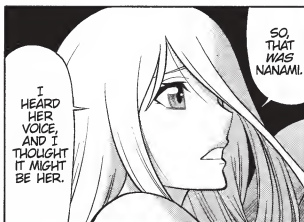
*Way back in Vol. 6, Chapter 33!



YOU
DON'T
MISS A
THING,
HUH?!









IT
WAS ONLY
THROUGH
THIS
PERSON'S
HELP THAT
WE MANAGED
TO GET THIS
FAR INTO
ROZENMANN'S
FORTRESS IN
THE FIRST
PLACE.

ALL WE
KNOW
FOR SURE
IS THAT
WHOEVER-
IT-IS,
THEY'RE
WORKING
TO HELP
YOU.

NOPE.
KAICHOU
WOULDN'T
DROP ANY
HINTS,
EITHER.

YOU
DON'T
HAVE
ANY
IDEA
WHO IT
COULD
BE?



DO YOU
THINK
NANAMI
HATES
ME
NOW?

AKIRA...

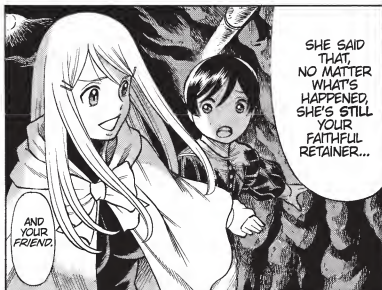


YOUR DUTIES
AS QUEEN ARE
PARAMOUNT,
AND FOR OUR
SAKES, YOU MUST
CONSTANTLY
SUPPRESS
YOUR NATURAL
KINDNESS
AND DO HARSH
THINGS.

KAICHOU
SAID THAT
THERE WAS
NO WAY SHE
COULD HATE
YOU FOR
SIMPLY DOING
WHAT YOU
MUST DO.

HUH?

SHE
TOLD ME
YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO'S
GOT TO
HAVE IT THE
HARDEST.



AND
YOUR
FRIEND.

SHE SAID
THAT,
NO MATTER
WHAT'S
HAPPENED,
SHE'S STILL
YOUR
FAITHFUL
RETAINER...



OH,
AND SHE
WANTED
ME TO
TELL YOU
SOME-
THING
ELSE,
TOO.



CAN
YOU
WALK
NOW?

ANYWAY,
WE'VE GOT
A PRESENT
FROM
KAICHOJI
THAT WE
SHOULD
PROBABLY
START
USING.



TAKE
A
LOOK.

WITH THIS,
WE CAN FIND
OUR WAY
TO THE
RENDEZVOUS
POINT WITHOUT
ROZENMANN'S
GOONS
SPOTTING US.

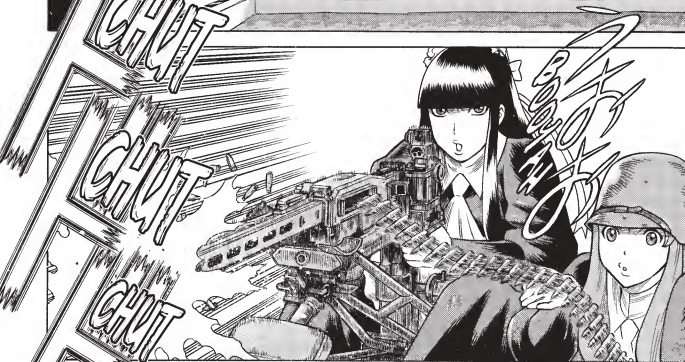
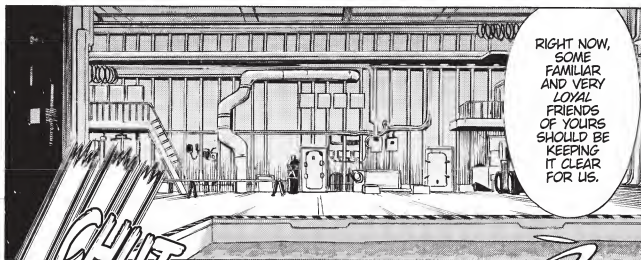
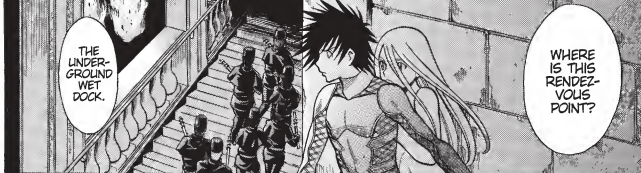
SHE
HACKED
INTO THE
CASTLE'S
SURVEILLANCE
SYSTEM AND
HOOKED UP
THIS
SMARTPHONE
TO IT.

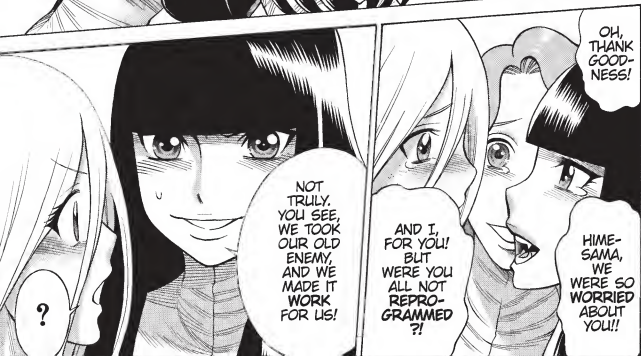
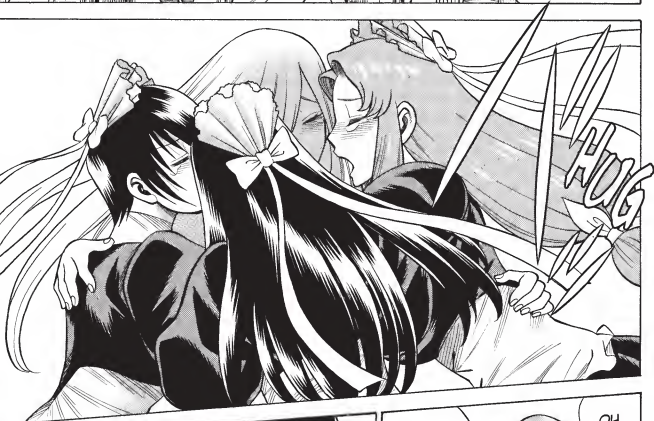
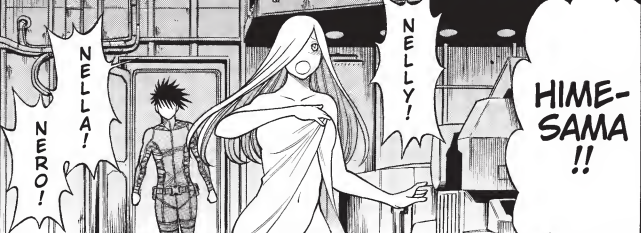


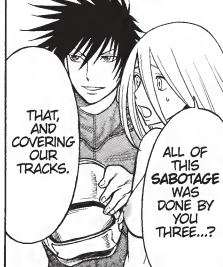
NANAMI
...

OH,
NA-
NAMI.

MY
FRIEND.







THAT,
AND
COVERING
OUR
TRACKS.

ALL OF
THIS
SABOTAGE
WAS
DONE BY
YOU
THREE...?



SHE
MEANS
THE
PIED
PIPER.

THAT
MYSTERIOUS
BENEFACTOR OF
OURS TOOK THE
STEALTH-TYPE
THAT HAD
INFECTED
KAICHOU,
DEVELOPED
AN UPDATED
VERSION,
AND THEN
INJECTED
THESE THREE
WITH IT.

SO, EVERY
NIGHT AT
EXACTLY
MIDNIGHT,
THEY'D
FOLLOW A
PRE-SET
PIECE OF
OUR PLAN,
DESPITE
BEING
REPRO-
GRAMMED.



EVERYONE
KNEW
THAT WE
HAD BEEN
REPRO-
GRAMMED,
SO NO
ONE KEPT
AN EYE
ON US AT
ALL.

YEP!
WE
WERE
LEFT ALL
ALONE,
SO WE
COULD
DO
WHAT-
EVER WE
WANTED!



YET
YOU
DID IT,
JUST
FOR
ME...

THAT
WAS A
TERRIBLY
RISKY
GAMBIT.



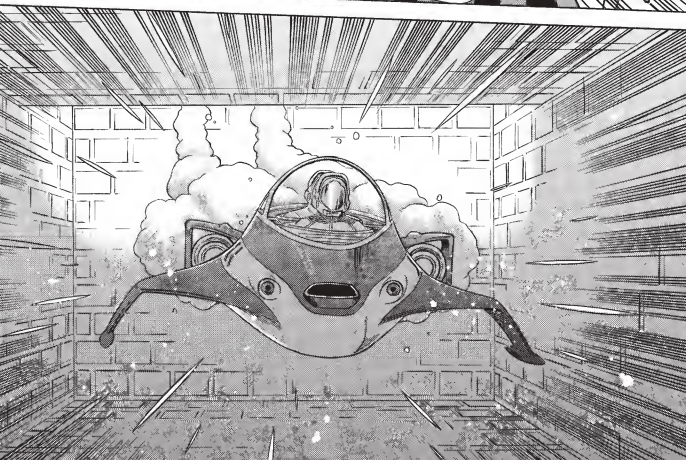
THEN, ONCE THE
TIME FOR ACTION
FINALLY CAME,
NANAMI HAD
AMPULES OF
YOUR DNA,
HIME-SAMA, TO
RE-REPROGRAM
THE THREE
OF US BACK
TO NORMAL.

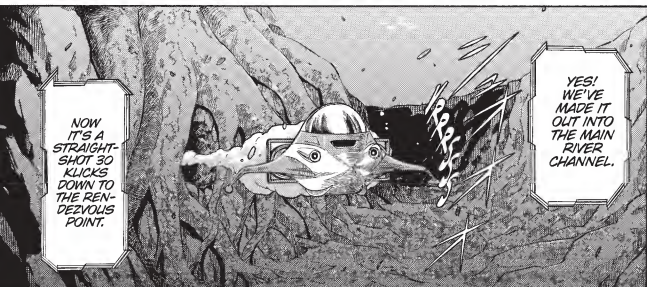
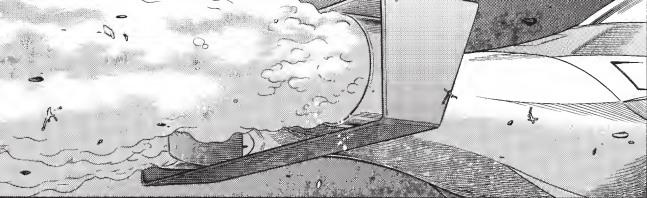
AND
HERE
WE
ARE!





TAKE CARE OF HIME-SAMA FOR US!!





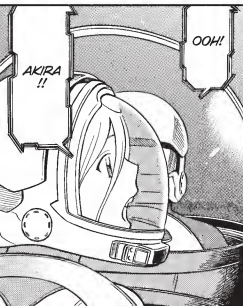
NOW
IT'S A
STRAIGHT-
SHOT 30
CLICKS
DOWN TO
THE REN-
DEZVOUS
POINT.

YES!
WE'VE
MADE IT
OUT INTO
THE MAIN
RIVER
CHANNEL.



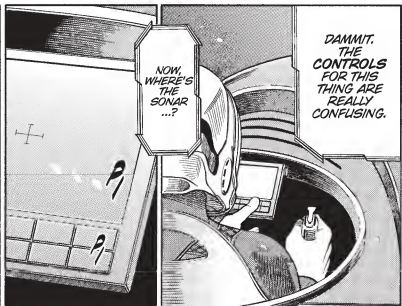
THEY'LL
BE
FINE...
HAVE A
LITTLE
FAITH IN
THEM.

I HOPE
NELLY
AND THE
OTHERS
ARE ALL
RIGHT...



AKIRA
!!

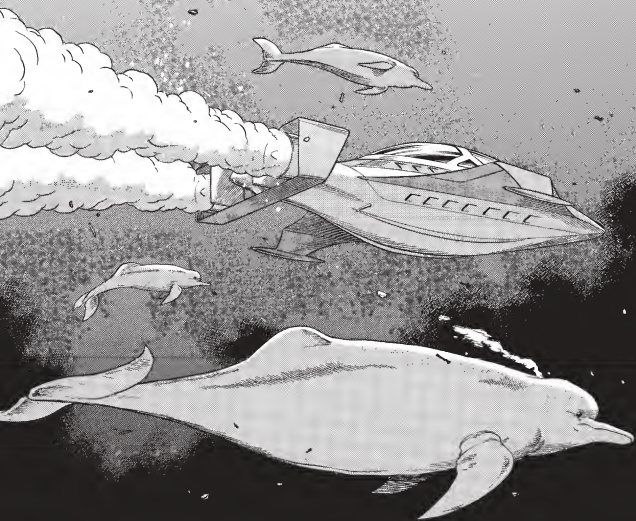
OOH!



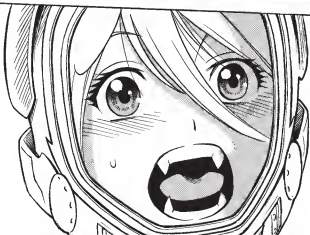
NOW,
WHERE'S
THE
SONAR
...?

DAMMIT.
THE
CONTROLS
FOR THIS
THING ARE
REALLY
CONFUSING.

Chapter 69: Escape From the Tiger's Lair

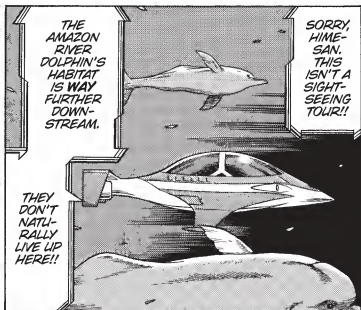
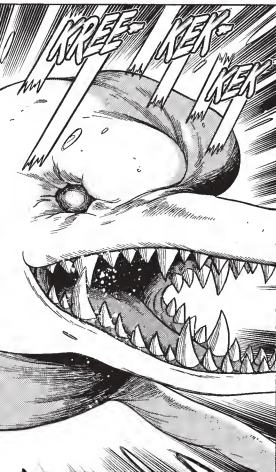
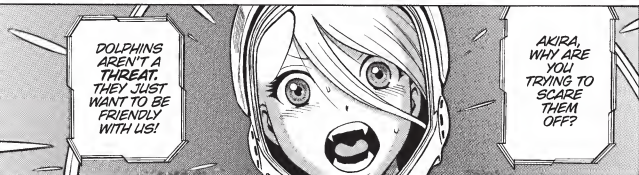


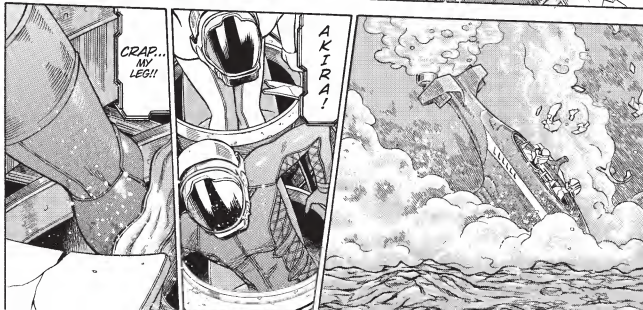
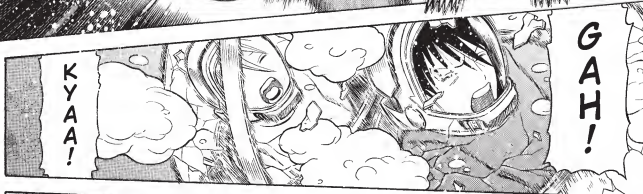
DOL-
PHINS
ARE
SWIM-
MING
WITH
US!!

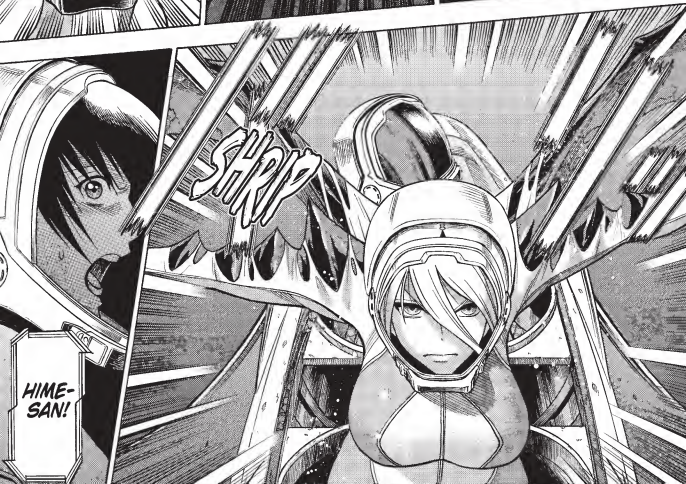
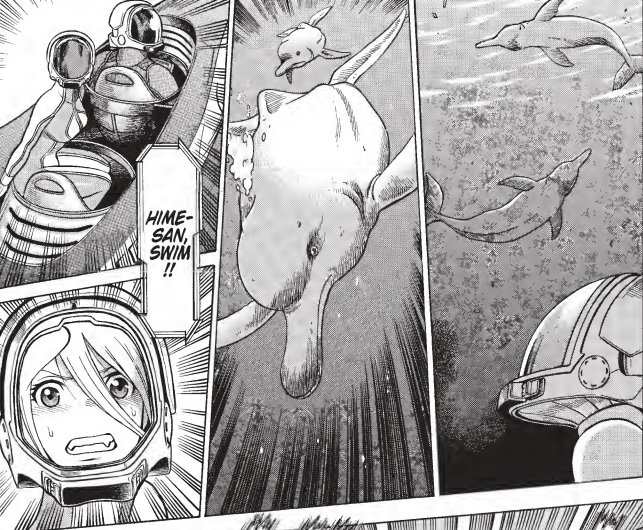


AKIRA,
LOOK!

DOL-
PHINS!









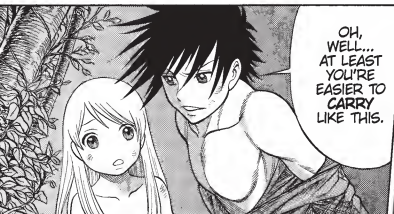
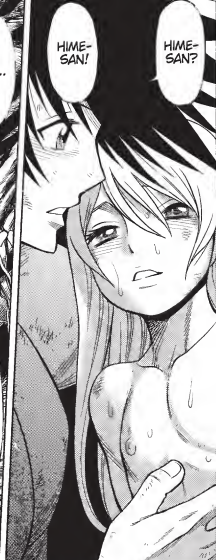


LOOK...

I'VE
RETURNED
TO MY
NORMAL
FORM.

HIME-
SAN!

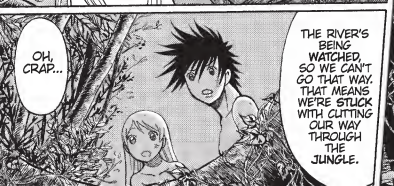
HIME-
SAN?



OH,
WELL...
AT LEAST
YOU'RE
EASIER TO
CARRY
LIKE THIS.

YOU DID
JUST USE
UP ALMOST
ALL OF
WHAT
POWER
YOU HAD
LEFT, YOU
DUMMY!

WELL,
DUH!



OH,
CRAP...

THE RIVER'S
BEING
WATCHED,
SO WE CAN'T
GO THAT WAY.
THAT MEANS
WE'RE STUCK
WITH CUTTING
OUR WAY
THROUGH
THE
JUNGLE.





NO...

GUESS
WE'D
BETTER
PUT SOME
DISTANCE
BETWEEN US
BEFORE THEY
SEND OUT
ANY MORE
PURSUERS.

THERE
WE
GO.



WE
DIDN'T
GET
VERY
FAR.

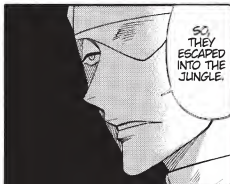


IS IT
A CON-
FIRMED
KILL?

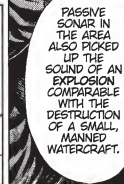
NO,
MY LORD.
SIGNALS
FROM
PATROL
DRONES
#104 AND
#102 WERE
LOST AT
THAT TIME
AS WELL.



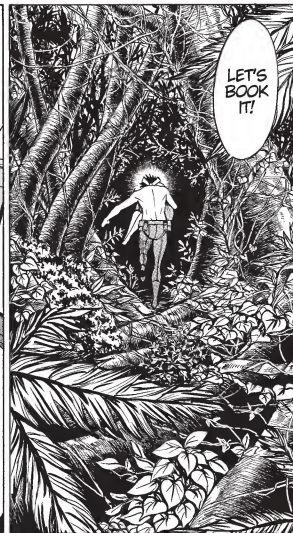
RIVER
PATROL
DRONE
#105.
SELF-
DESTRUCT
ACTIVATION
CONFIRMED.



SO,
THEY
ESCAPED
INTO THE
JUNGLE.



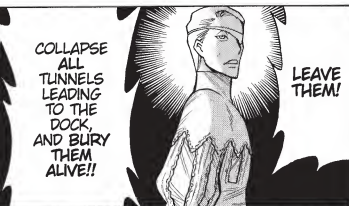
PASSIVE
SONAR IN
THE AREA
ALSO PICKED
UP THE
SOUND OF AN
EXPLOSION
COMPARABLE
WITH THE
DESTRUCTION
OF A SMALL,
MANNED
WATERCRAFT.



LET'S
BOOK
IT!



WHAT
SHALL WE DO
ABOUT THE
POCKET OF
RESISTANCE
THAT REMAINS
AT THE
UNDERGROUND
WET DOCK,
MY LORD?



COLLAPSE
ALL
TUNNELS
LEADING
TO THE
DOCK,
AND BURY
THEM
ALIVE!!

LEAVE
THEM!



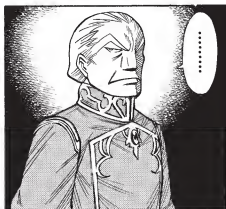
MY
LORD,
IS THAT
TRULY
THE
WISEST
COURSE?

COLLAPSING
ALL OF THE
TUNNELS
WILL ONCE
AGAIN
BLOCK THE
PATH TO
THE
"CRADLE."

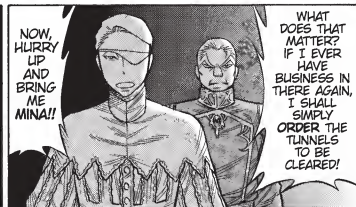


SEND OUT
A SQUAD
TO PURSUE
THEM!
MINA MUST
NOT BE
ALLOWED
TO
ESCAPE!!

RECAP-
TURE HER AT
ANY
COST!



NOW,
HURRY
UP AND
BRING
ME
MINA!!



WHAT
DOES THAT
MATTER?
IF I EVER
HAVE
BUSINESS IN
THERE AGAIN,
I SHALL
SIMPLY
ORDER THE
TUNNELS
TO BE
CLEARED!





I WAS
VERY
HAPPY
THAT I
COULD
BE LIKE
THAT
FOR
YOU.

IT FELT
LIKE WE
WERE
FINALLY ON
EQUAL
FOOTING...



ERM,
NO...
I DON'T
NOT
LIKE IT.



IT'S JUST,
UH...
KINDA
DISTRACT-
ING,
YOU SEE.

ESPE-
CIALLY
WHEN I'M
CARRYING
YOU.

IDIOT!

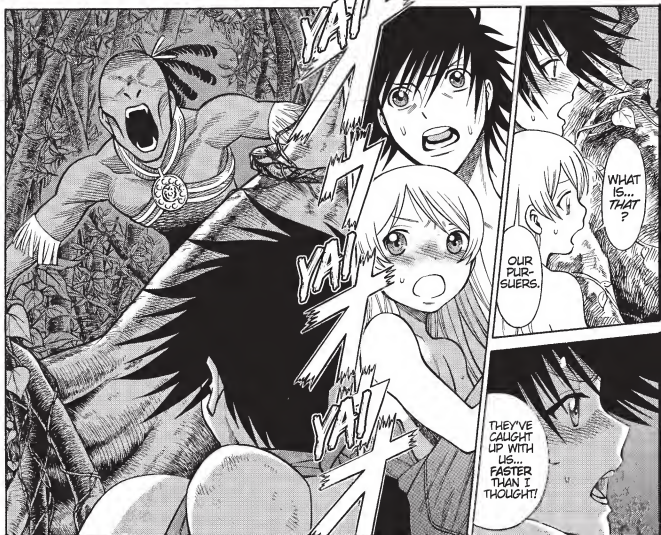


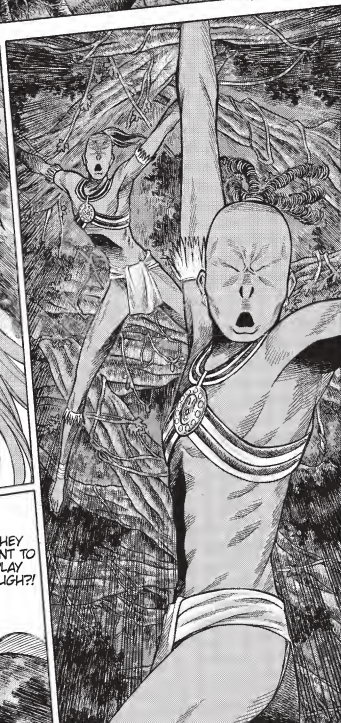
WHAT
IS
IT?

SHH!



!





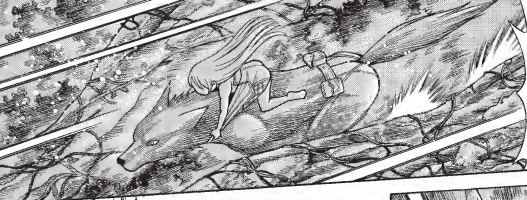
HANG
ON
TIGHT,
HIME-
SAN!!

THEN
I'LL
HAVE
TO
STEP
UP
MY
GAME
!!



HIGH!
NOW I
KNOW WHY
THERE
AREN'T ANY
LARGE
MAMMALS
NATIVE
TO THE
AMAZON!





IT'S SO
HARD
TO GET
ANYWHERE,
RUNNING
ON FOOT!



GET
OUT OF MY
WAY
!!



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
HE'D USE
"AGNI
BLOOD,"
RIGHT
IN THE
MIDDLE
OF A
DAMN
FOREST!!

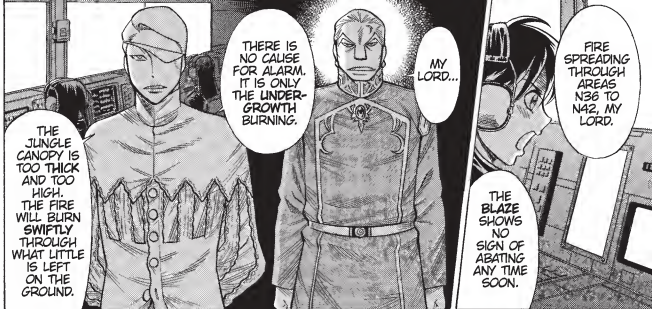
ROZEN-
MANN,
YOU
BAS-
TARD!

WHAT
WAS
THAT
?!

KRAK
KRAK
KRAK

FWOOSH





THE JUNGLE CANOPY IS TOO THICK AND TOO HIGH. THE FIRE WILL BURN SWIFTLY THROUGH WHAT LITTLE IS LEFT ON THE GROUND.

THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM. IT IS ONLY THE UNDER-GROWTH BURNING.

MY LORD...

FIRE SPREADING THROUGH AREAS N36 TO N42, MY LORD.

THE BLAZE SHOWS NO SIGN OF ABATING ANY TIME SOON.



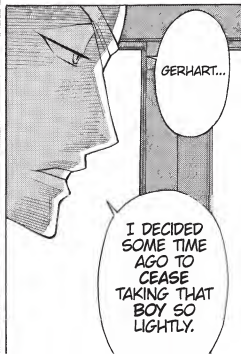
MORE THAN ONCE, I HAVE THOUGHT THAT I HAD FINALLY KILLED HIM. YET EACH TIME, HE CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD TO THWART ME.

NEVER AGAIN WILL I UNDER-ESTIMATE KABURAGI AKIRA, GERHART. NEVER AGAIN!



PERHAPS, MY LORD. BUT THE FIRE IS MOVING TOO QUICKLY...

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY MAY BE UNABLE TO ESCAPE THE FLAMES IN TIME.



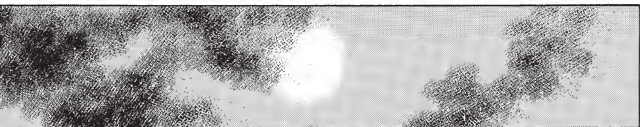
GERHART...

I DECIDED SOME TIME AGO TO CEASE TAKING THAT BOY SO LIGHTLY.



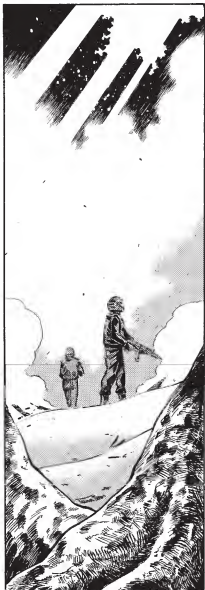
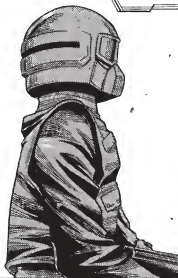
THEY
MUST
NOT BE
ALLOWED
TO
ESCAPE
ME.

ONCE THE
FIRE HAS
ABATED,
SEND OUT
A PARTY TO
SEARCH
THROUGH
THE
ASHES.



NO SIGN
OF OUR
TARGET'S
CORPSES,
EITHER.

NOT
GETTING
ANY
SIGN OF
MOVE-
MENT
HERE,
SIR.



OUR
ORDERS
ARE NOT
TO
RETURN
UNTIL
WE FIND
THEM.
WE KEEP
LOOKING.

HOW
LONG
WE
GOING
TO KEEP
THIS UP,
SIR?





WATER BEARS--
 (ALSO CALLED
 "MOSS PIGLETS"
 OR "TARDIGRADES"--
 ARE CREATURES
 THAT CAN SURVIVE
 ANYWHERE! THEY'RE
 FOUND AT THE POLES
 AND AT THE
 EQUATOR. THEY LIVE
 IN DEEP OCEAN
 TRENCHES, ATOP
 HIGH MOUNTAINS,
 AND EVEN IN BOILING
 HOT SPRINGS.

*Cryptobiosis is the death-like state of life that some organisms can enter in response to adverse environmental conditions.



BY SEALING
 OURSELVES UP
 IN THIS TINY
 SPACE AND
 LETTING
 HIME-SAN
 DROP DOWN
 CLOSE TO THE
 SLEEP OF THE
 DEAD, WE CAN
 MIMIC THAT
 A LITTLE.



IN THAT STATE,
 THEY CAN SURVIVE
 TEMPERATURES
 ALMOST AS LOW
 AS ABSOLUTE ZERO.
 SOME SUB-SPECIES
 HAVE EVEN SURVIVED
 EXPOSURE TO THE
 VACUUM OF OUTER
 SPACE.

MICROSCOPIC IN
 SIZE, THEY HAVE
 THE ABILITY TO
 TOTALLY SUSPEND
 THEIR METABO-
 LISMS AND PUT
 THEMSELVES IN
 CRYPTOBIOSIS*



SHE HAD ALREADY
PUSHED HERSELF
HARD AS
ROZENMANN'S
PRISONER, HARDLY
EATING OR
SLEEPING THE
ENTIRE TIME...

SHE
PROBABLY
WRING
HERSELF
NEARLY DRY,
GETTING
US BOTH
OUT OF
THE RIVER.

DAMN...
THIS IS
REALLY
TAKING A
LOT OUT
OF HER.

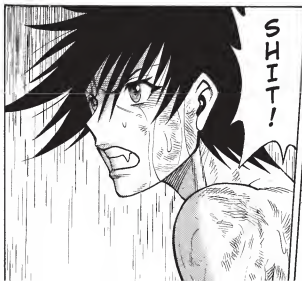
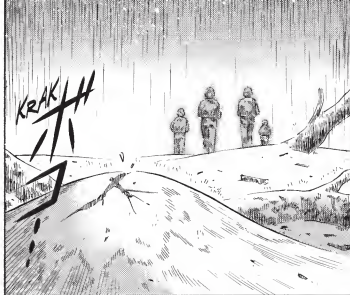


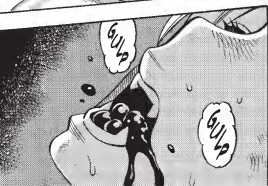
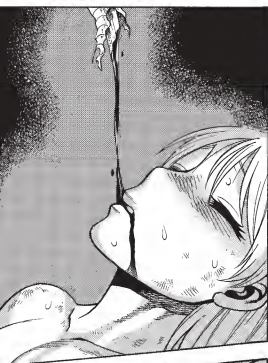
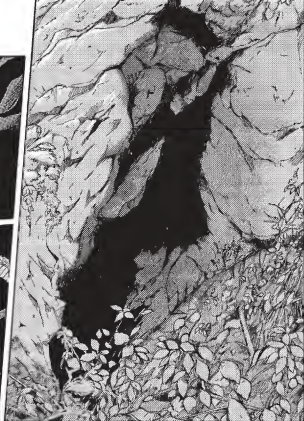
THEY'LL
GIVE US THE
OPENING
WE NEED TO
ESCAPE.
WE JUST
NEED TO BE
PATIENT, A
LITTLE LONGER.

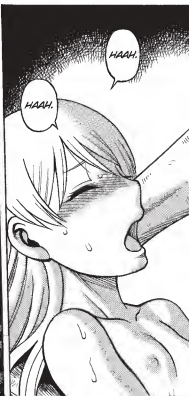
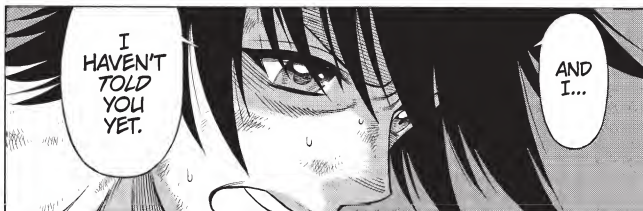
JUST A
LITTLE
LONGER.

HANG
IN
THERE,
HIME-
SAN...

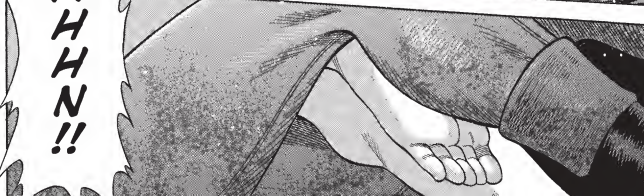
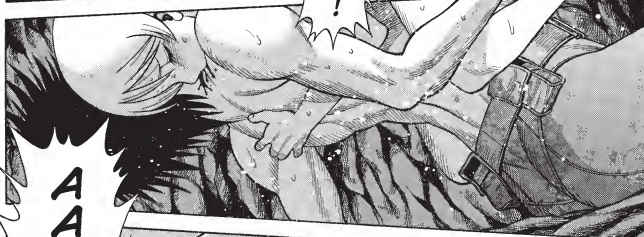
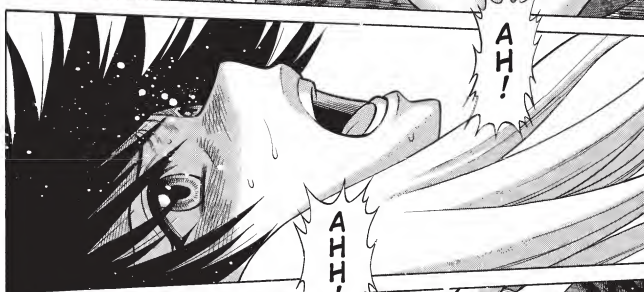
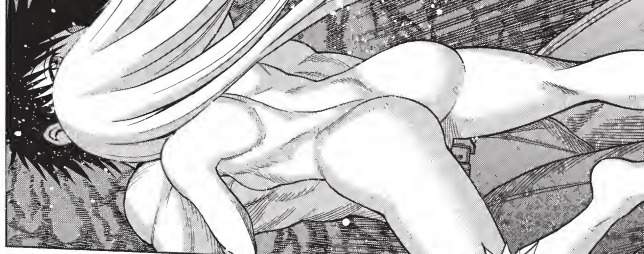


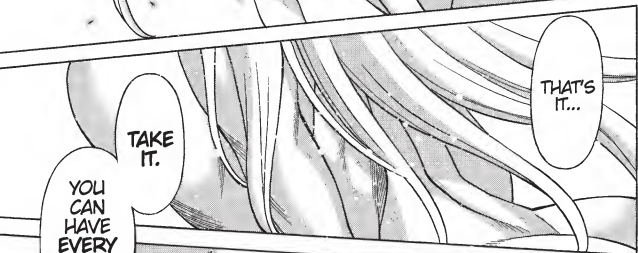
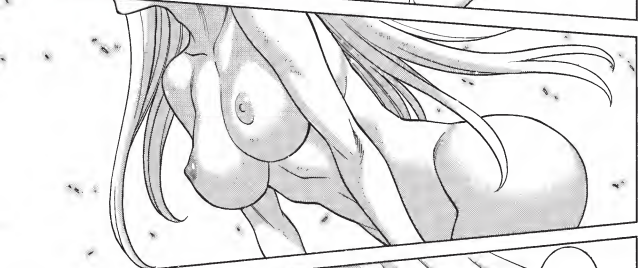




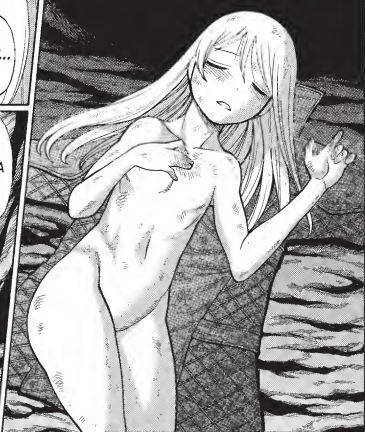


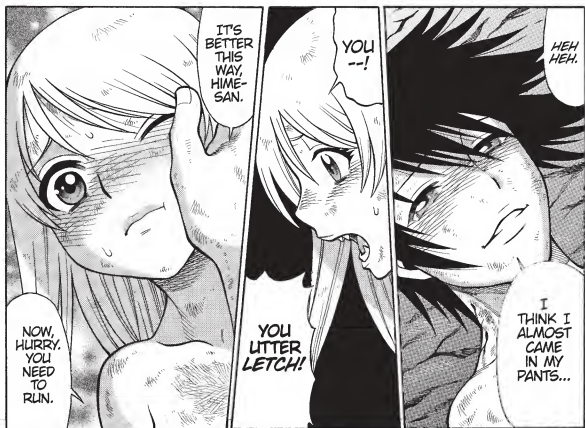
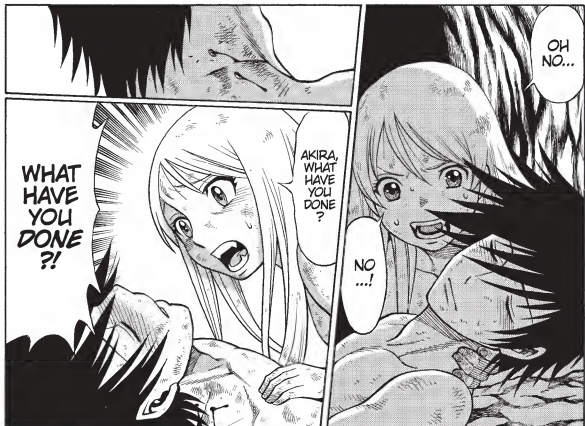


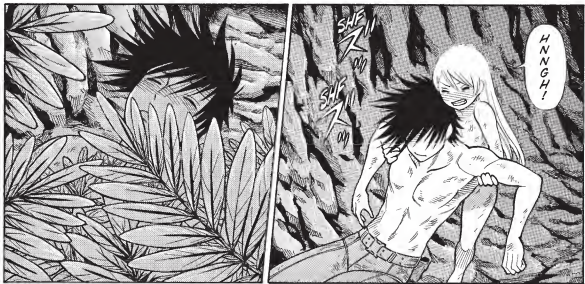


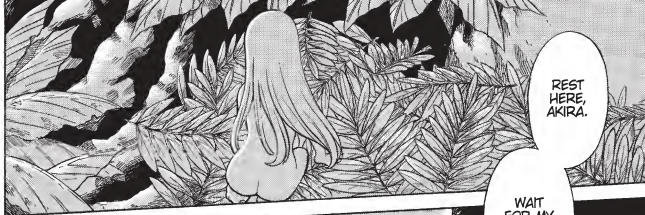












REST
HERE,
AKIRA.

WAIT
FOR MY
RETURN.



DON'T
WORRY.
I WON'T
BE
LONG.



I CAN
FIND THE
VACCINE
THERE!!

ROZEN-
MANN'S
CASTLE
IS
NEARBY...



IT WILL
TAKE
48 HOURS
FOR THE
VAMPIRISM
VIRUS TO
TRIGGER
APOPTOSIS
IN A
WEREWOLF...

I MUST
FIND IT
BEFORE
THEN,
WHAT-
EVER
THE
COST!!

FWAP

WAIT
FOR
ME,
AKIRA!

I
WILL
NOT
LET
YOU
DIE!!

**FWOO
SH**

MANY AN OCCULT FAN HAS PONDERED THIS QUESTION AT LEAST ONCE.



WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF A VAMPIRE DRANK THE BLOOD OF A WEREWOLF?

HOWEVER, LEGENDS SAY THAT IN OLDEN TIMES, WEREWOLVES DID NOT HAVE THAT PARTICULAR WEAKNESS.



EVERY NOW AND AGAIN, ANCIENT TEXTS WILL MAKE PASSING MENTION OF WEREWOLVES TURNED INTO VAMPIRES, AND OF THE HAVOC THAT SUCH CREATURES WREAKED UPON BOTH VAMPIRE AND WEREWOLF SOCIETIES.

AS WITH HUMANS, THE VAMPIRISM VIRUS WILL ATTEMPT TO REWRITE THE INFECTED WEREWOLF'S DNA.

HOWEVER, IN WEREWOLVES, THAT TRANSFORMATION WILL TRIGGER THE DEATH OF THE REWRITTEN CELL, LEADING TO APOPTOSIS. IT TAKES 72 HOURS FOR AN INFECTED HUMAN TO FULLY CHANGE INTO A VAMPIRE, BUT AN INFECTED WEREWOLF WILL WEAKEN AND DIE IN ONLY 48 HOURS.



A WEREWOLF'S PEERLESS FIGHTING ABILITY, COMBINED WITH A VAMPIRE'S LINDYING YOUTH, WOULD NOT BE THE RESULT OF THE MOST POWERFUL CREATURE IN THE WORLD?

UNFORTUNATELY, THE ANSWER TO THAT IS "NO."



THE WEREWOLVES
CONSENTED TO
BECOME THE
VAMPIRES' LOYAL
SERVANTS TO
PROVE THEIR
LOYALTY. THE
VAMPIRES'
ROYAL HOUSE
COMMANDED THAT
THE WEREWOLVES
BE MODIFIED.

IT IS SAID
THAT THIS
CHANGE
CAME ABOUT
WHEN THE
WAR
BETWEEN
VAMPIRES
AND WERE-
WOLVES
CEASED.

THROUGH THIS,
THE VAMPIRE
NATION HOPED
TO CURTAIL
THE RAPIDLY-
EXPANDING
WEREWOLF
POPULATION.

FIRST AMONG
THE CHANGES
WAS THE
ELIMINATION OF
THE FEMALE
WEREWOLF.
WEREWOLF DNA
WAS ALTERED
SO THAT ONLY
A MALE
COULD EVER
BECOME ONE.

FROM THIS,
IT IS READILY
OBVIOUS
TO SEE HOW
THE PURE
VAMPIRES
GREATLY
FEARED
THE HYBRID
WEREWOLF-
VAMPIRES.

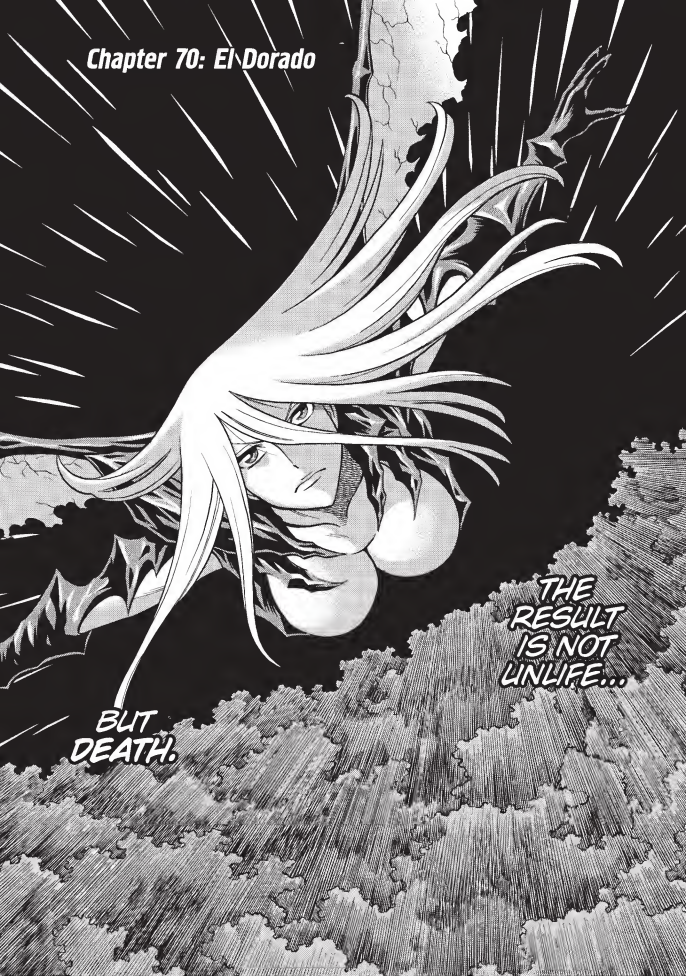
THE SECOND
WAS THE
INTRODUC-
TION OF
APOPTOSIS,
ENSURING
THAT ANY
WEREWOLF
INFECTED
WITH THE
VAMPIRISM
VIRUS
WOULD
DIE.

IT'S JUST
THAT IN THE
WEREWOLF'S
CASE...

ONCE INFECTED,
A WEREWOLF
HAS EXACTLY THE
SAME AMOUNT
OF TIME AS A
NORMAL HUMAN
DOES BEFORE
REACHING THE
POINT OF NO
RETURN.

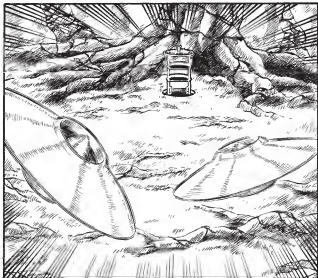
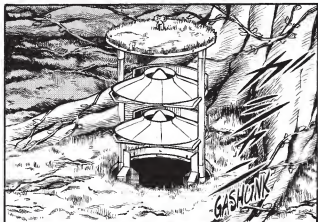
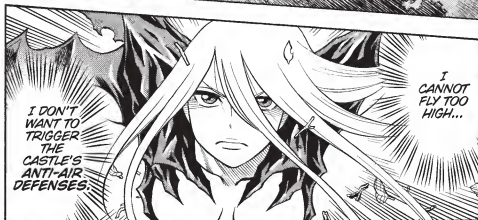
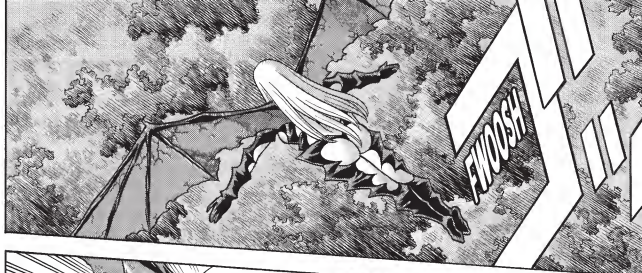
48 HOURS.

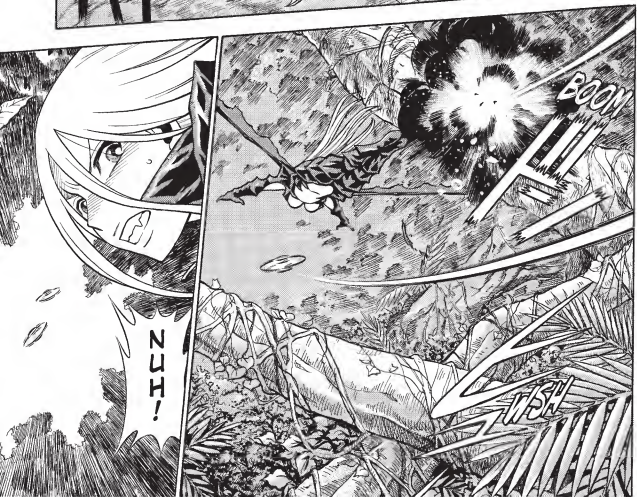
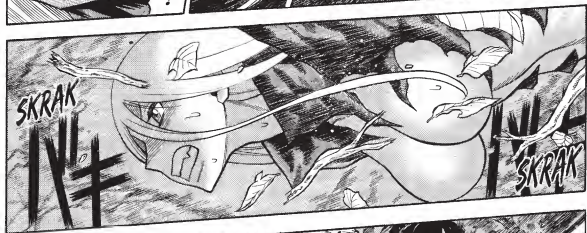
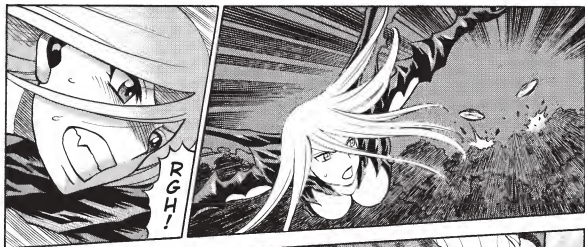
Chapter 70: El Dorado

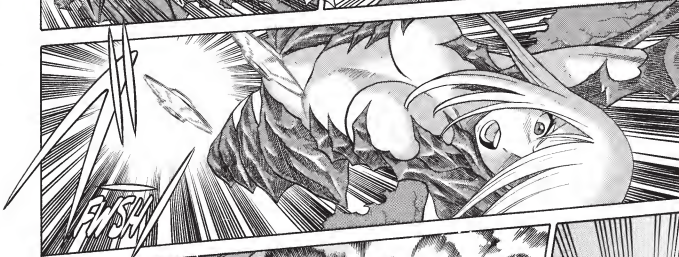
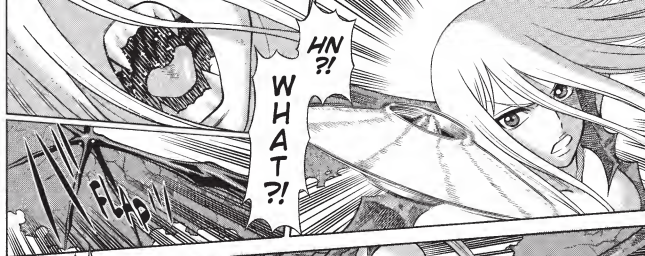


**BUT
DEATH.**

**THE
RESULT
IS NOT
UNLIFE...**









NOT
NOW!

NO!

ZOOO...!!!

SKRR

RRR

RRR

RRR

RRR

RCH

GAH!

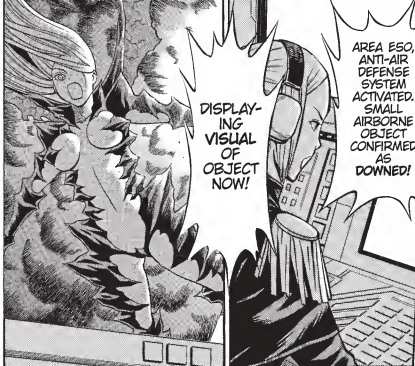
SKRR

SKRR

SKRR

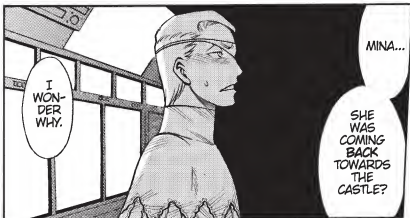
OW
...!

WAAAH?!



DISPLAY-
ING
VISUAL
OF
OBJECT
NOW!

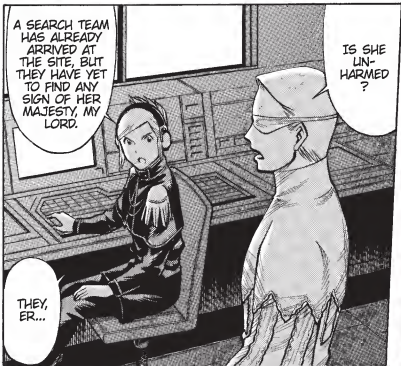
AREA ESO,
ANTI-AIR
DEFENSE
SYSTEM
ACTIVATED.
SMALL
AIRBORNE
OBJECT
CONFIRMED
AS
DOWNED!



I
WON-
DER
WHY.

MINA...

SHE
WAS
COMING
BACK
TOWARDS
THE
CASTLE?

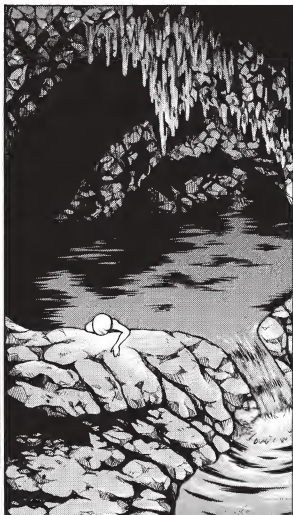
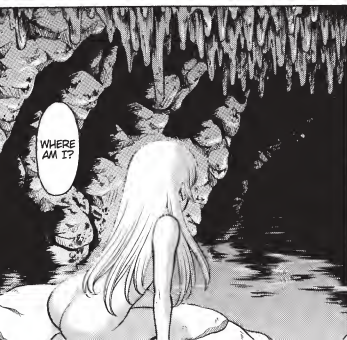
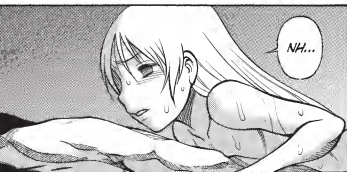


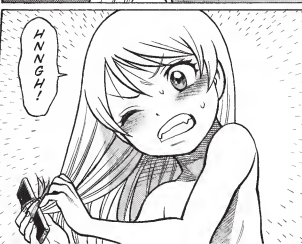
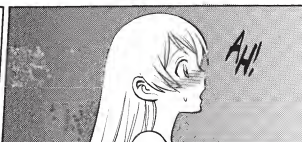
A SEARCH TEAM
HAS ALREADY
ARRIVED AT
THE SITE, BUT
THEY HAVE YET
TO FIND ANY
SIGN OF HER
MAJESTY, MY
LORD.

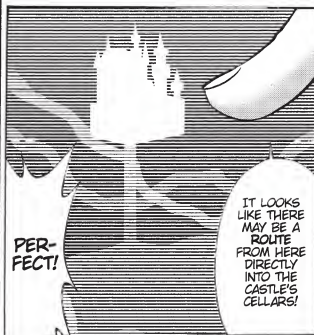
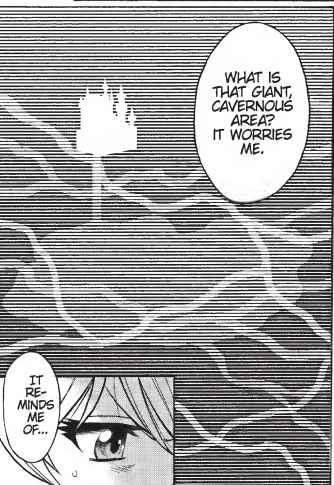
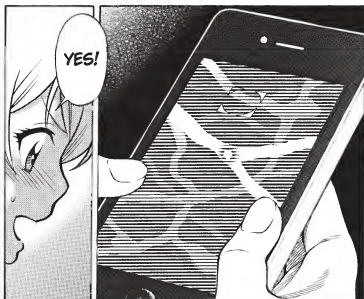
IS SHE
UN-
HARMED
?

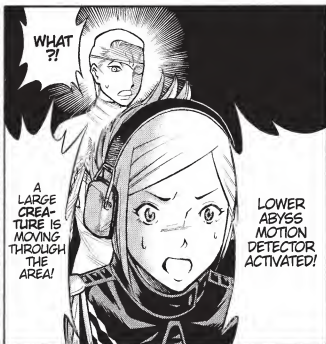
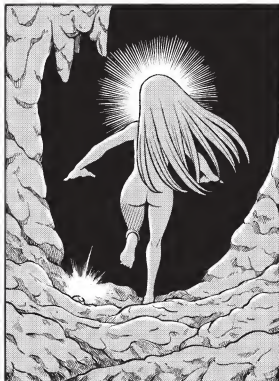
THEY,
ER...













THE
SIGNAL IS
MOVING
TOWARDS
THE
"CRADLE."



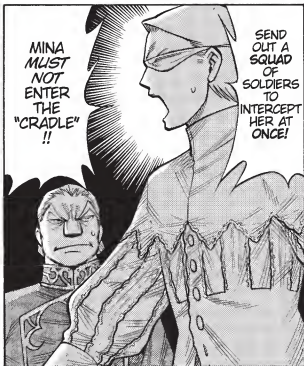
MINA IS
HEADED
THERE?!

THE
"CRADLE"
...



MY LORD,
DO YOU NOT
REMEMBER?!
YOU ORDERED
THE TUNNELS
LEADING TO IT
DETONATED
BUT A FEW
HOURS AGO!

ANY PATH
FROM HERE
IS NOW
BLOCKED
BY TONS OF
RUBBLE!



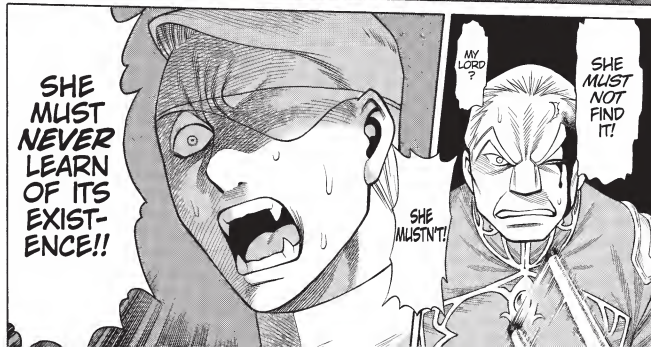
MINA
MUST
NOT
ENTER
THE
"CRADLE"
!!

SEND
OUT A
SQUAD
OF
SOLDIERS
TO
INTERCEPT
HER AT
ONCE!



THEN
DIG
THEM
OUT!!

DON'T
STAND
THERE,
GAPING
LIKE A
LOON!
GET TO
WORK!!

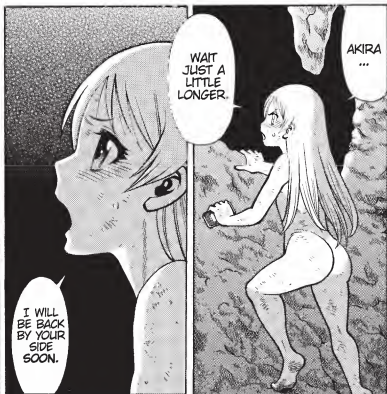
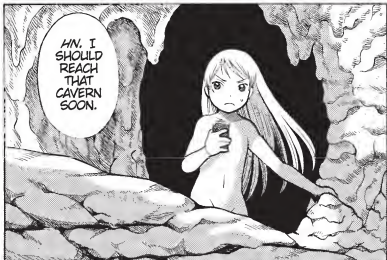
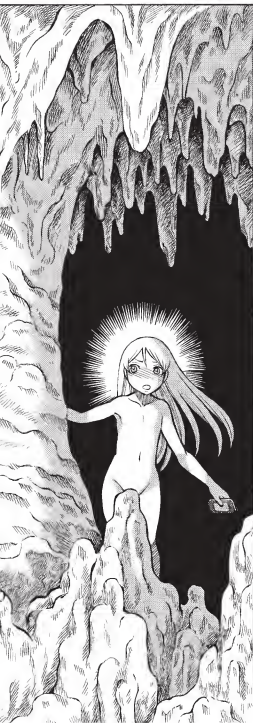
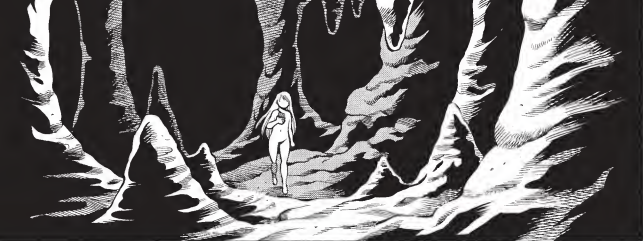


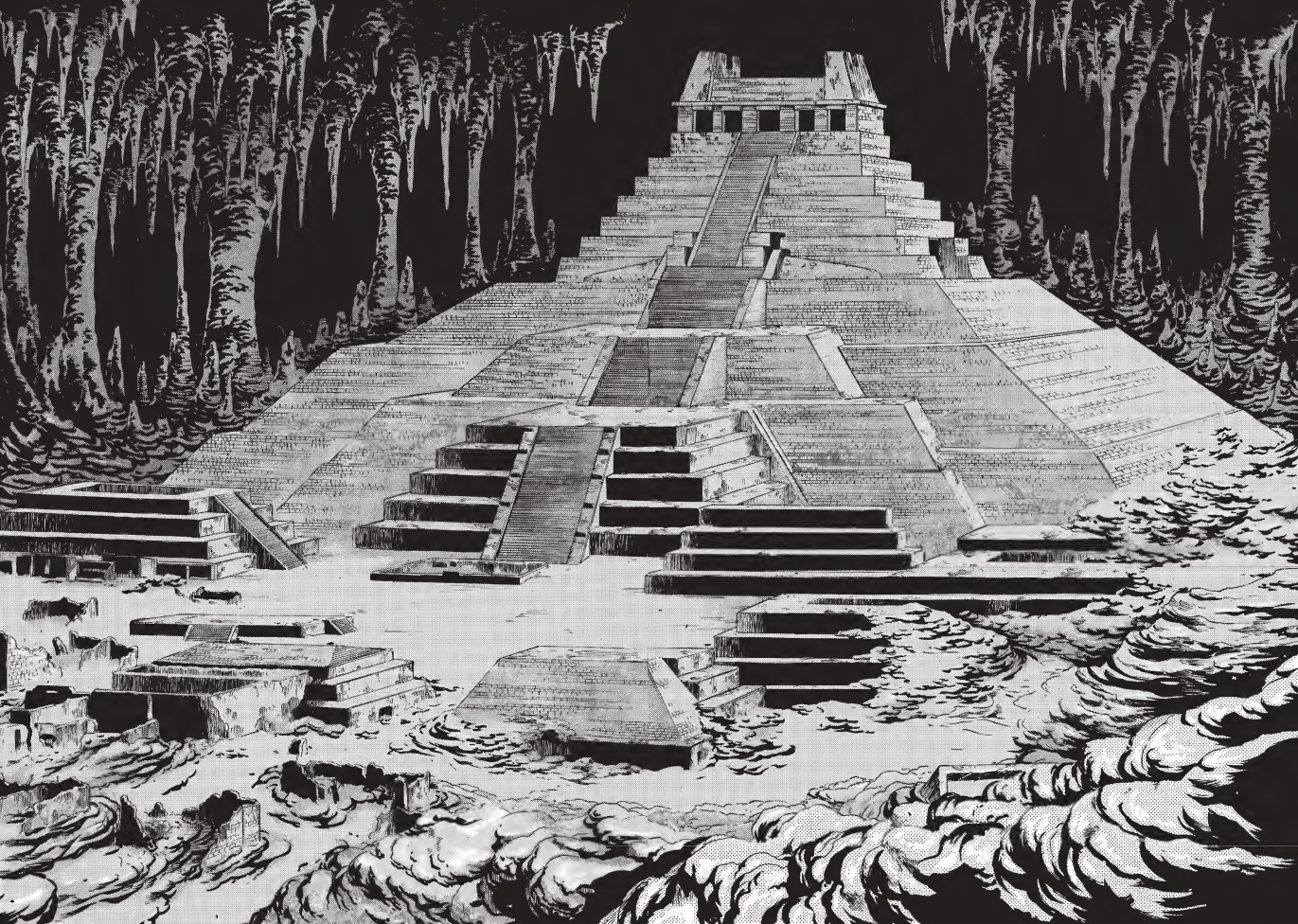
SHE
MUST
NEVER
LEARN
OF ITS
EXIST-
ENCE!!

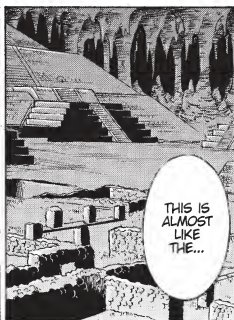
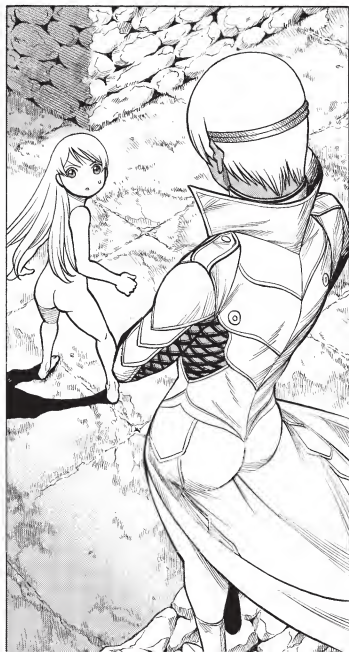
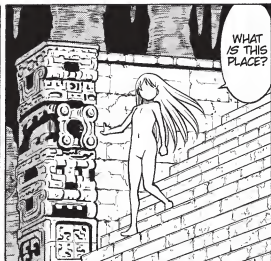
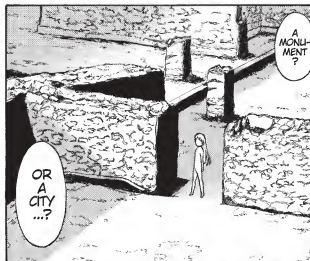
MY
LORD
?

SHE
MUST
NOT
FIND
IT!

SHE
MUSTN'T!









ANGIE...



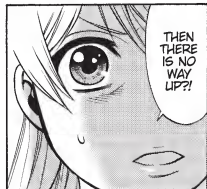
ROZENMANN
CALLS THIS
PLACE HIS
"CRADLE."

JUST
LIKE YOU
DO YOURS,
UNDER-
NEATH
THE BUND.



HOW-
EVER
...

THAT IS
THE LEAST
OF YOUR
PROBLEMS.
ROZENMANN
COLLAPSED
ALL OF THE
TUNNELS
LEADING OUT
OF HERE.

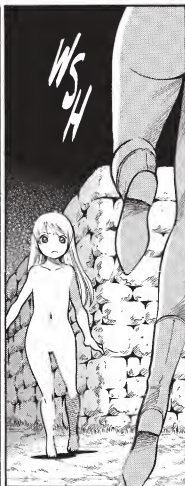


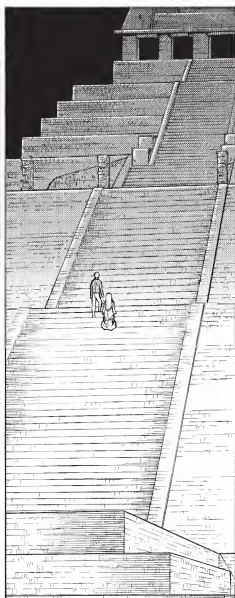
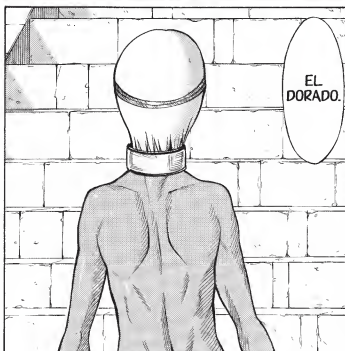
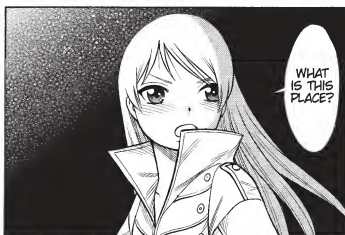
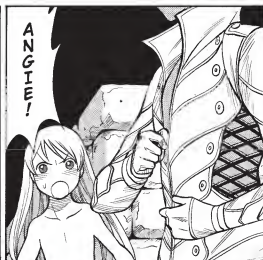
THEN
THERE
IS NO
WAY
UP?!



I WON'T
LET
ROZEN-
MANN
KNOW
YOU'RE
HERE.

DON'T
WORRY.
I AM
WORKING
COVERTLY
RIGHT
NOW.







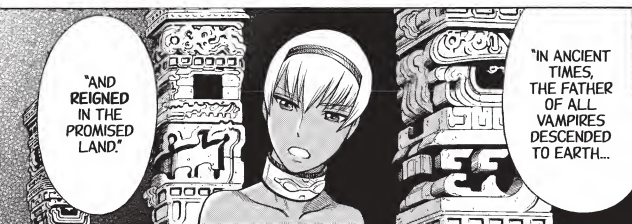
DIFFERENT CULTURES HAD DIFFERENT NAMES FOR IT, BUT THEY'RE ALL SPEAKING OF THE SAME LEGENDARY CITY.

IS THAT ENOUGH OF A HINT FOR YOU?

BRIGA-
DOON.

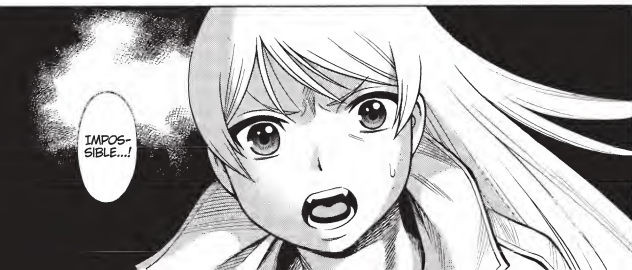
SHANGRI
LA.

TIR
NA
NÖG.



"AND
REIGNED
IN THE
PROMISED
LAND."

"IN ANCIENT
TIMES,
THE FATHER
OF ALL
VAMPIRES
DESCENDED
TO EARTH..."



IMPOS-
SIBLE...!



NECRO-
POLIS...

THE
HOME
OF MY
ANCESTORS.

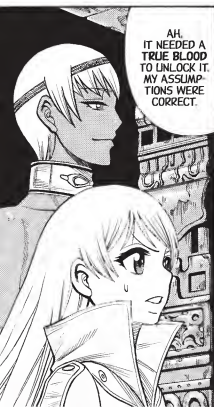
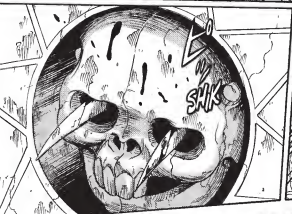


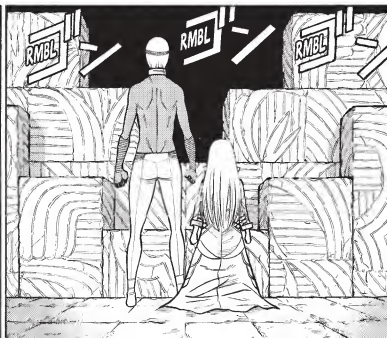
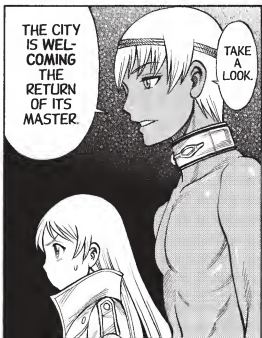
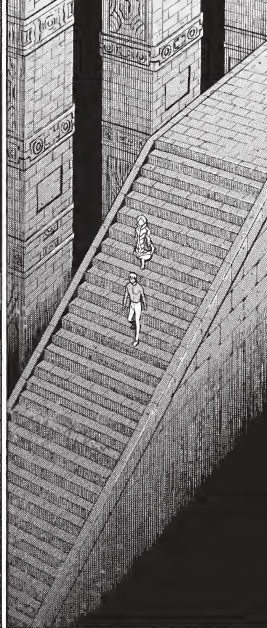
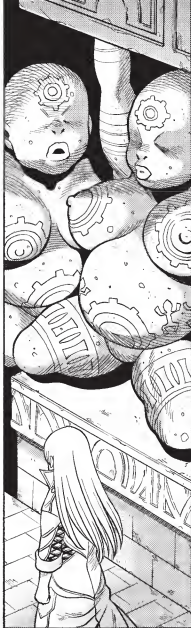
THIS IS THE
VAMPIRE
NATION'S
PROMISED LAND.
THIS IS THE
CAPITAL CITY
FROM WHICH
THE FATHER OF
ALL VAMPIRES
RULED THE
EARTH IN
ANCIENT
TIMES.

NO.
NOT
IMPOS-
SIBLE.



THIS IS
NECRO-
POLIS!

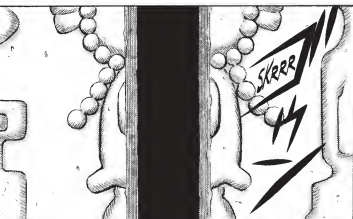
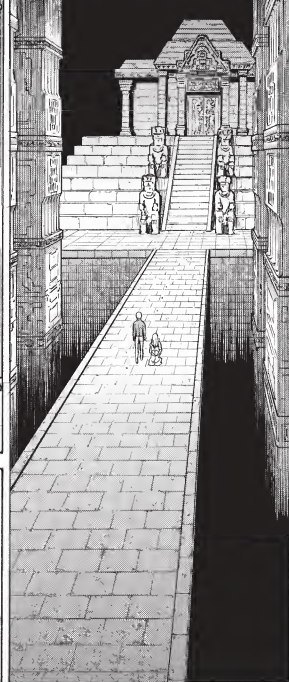




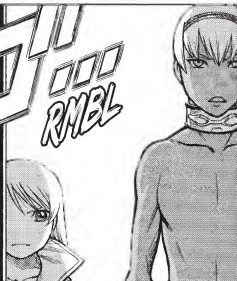


HERE...

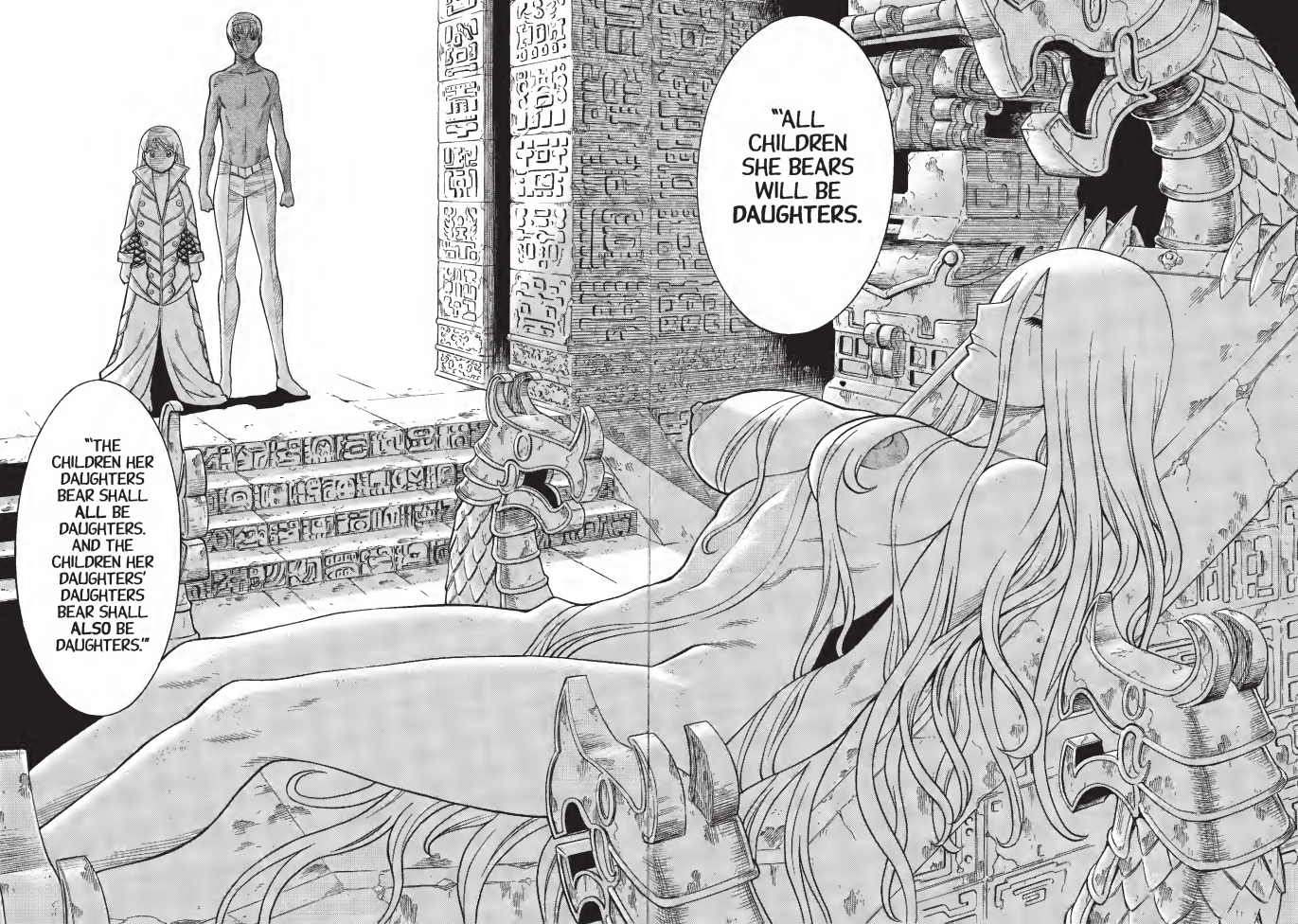
HERE
WE
WILL
FIND
HER.



"SEEING
THIS, HE
SMILED. 'MY
DAUGHTER,
I NAME MY
ONE TRUE
HEIR,' HE
SAID.

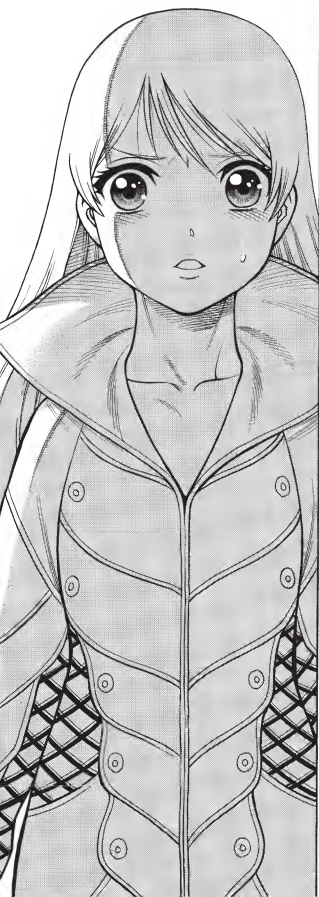


"TO THE
FATHER
WERE BORN
NINETY-NINE
SONS AND
ONE
DAUGHTER.



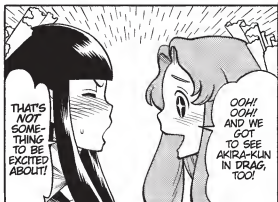
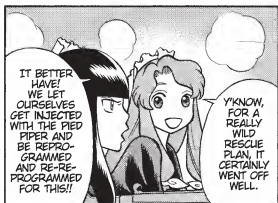
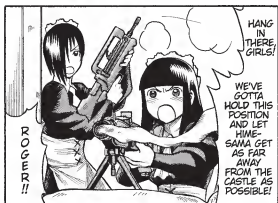
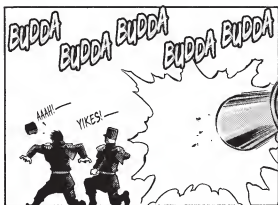
"THE
CHILDREN HER
DAUGHTERS
BEAR SHALL
ALL BE
DAUGHTERS.
AND THE
CHILDREN HER
DAUGHTERS'
DAUGHTERS
BEAR SHALL
ALSO BE
DAUGHTERS."

"ALL
CHILDREN
SHE BEARS
WILL BE
DAUGHTERS."



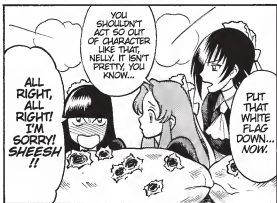
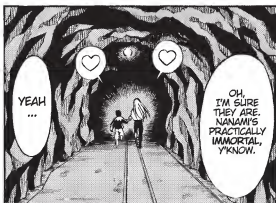
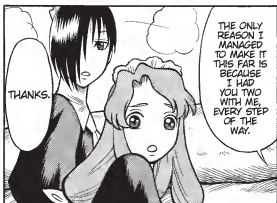
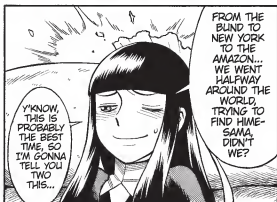
Dance In The Vampire Band

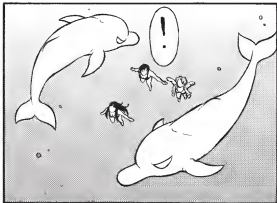
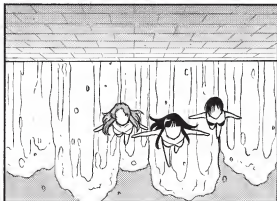
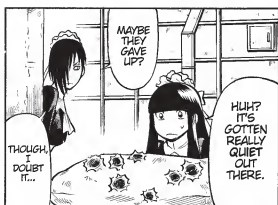
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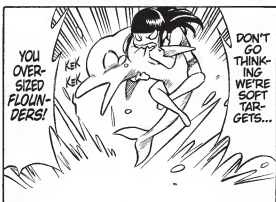
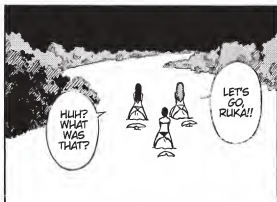
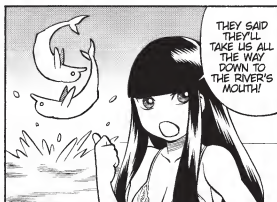
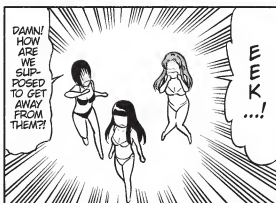
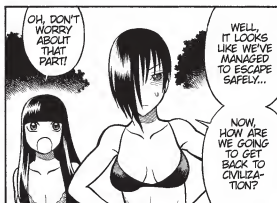


DANCE with the VAMPIRE MAID









TO BE CONTINUED!!

Dance In The Vampire Bund



What is it
that the
Imposter
Mina,
still ruling
the Bund,
is truly
after?

What is
going to
happen
to Akira?

What does
Duke
Borgiani
want?

DANCE IN THE VAMPIRE BUND VOL. 13 coming soon!



Who is it that
was found
sleeping in the
Necropolis?

What terrible sin
has Rozenmann
committed...?

Mina Tepes
will discover
all of this and
more, in the
next volume!

Race through the depths of night with this neo-vampire chronicle!

Dance in the Vampire Bund

VOLUME 12

story &
art by Nozomu Tamaki

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If this is your first time reading manga, you start
reading from the top right panel on each page and
take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the
numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards
at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



